THE PLEASANT HISTORY OF IOHN, Winchcomb, in his younger yeares *called* Iack *of* Newbery, *the famous.* and worthy Clothier of England: declaring *his life and loue, together with his charitable* deeds and great hoſpitality;

And how hee ſet continually fiue *hundred poore people at worke, to the* great benefit of the Common-wealth: *worthy to be read and regarded.*

Now the eight time Imprinted, corrected, and inlarged, by *T. D.*

Haud curo inuidiam.

AT LONDON,
Printed by *Humfrey Lownes*, and are to bee ſould at the ſigne of the Star on Bredſtreet hill.
1619.

THE

TO ALL FAMOVS Cloth-workers in England, I wiſh all happineſſe of life, proſperity and *brotherly affection.*

AMong all manuall Arts vſed in this Land, none is more famous for deſert, or more beneficiall to the Commonwealth, than is the moſt neceſſarie Art of Cloathing. And therefore as the benefit thereof is great, ſo are the profeſſors of the ſame to bee both loued and maintained. Many wiſe men therfore, hauing deeply conſidered the ſame, moſt bountifully haue beſtowed their gifts for vpholding of ſo excellent a commoditie, which hath been, and yet is the nouriſhing of many thouſands of poore People. Wherefore to you moſt worthy Clothiers doe I dedicate this my rude worke, which hath raiſed out of the duſt of forgetfulneſſe a moſt famous and worthie man, whoſe name was *John Lumb-*

combe, alias *Iacke* of *Newberie*; of whose life and loue I haue briefly written, and in a plain and humble manner, that it my be the better vnderstood of those for whose sake I take paines to compile it, that is, for the well minded Clothiers, that herein they may behold the great worship and credit which men of this trade haue in former time come vnto. If therefore it bee of you kindly accepted, I haue the end of my desire, and thinke my paines well recompenced: and finding your gentlenes answering my hope, it shall moue mee shortly to set to your sight the long hidden Historie of *Thomas* of *Redding*, *George* of *Gloceſter*, *Richard* of *Worceſter*, and *William* of *Salſburie*, with diuers others, who were all most notable members in the Commonwealth of this Land, and men of great fame and dignitie. In the meane space I commend you all to the most high God; who euer increase, in all perfection and prosperous estate, the long honoured trade of English Clothiers.

Yours in all humble seruice,

T. D.

THE MOST PLEAſant and delectable Hiſtorie of Iohn Wincecombe, *otherwiſe* called *Iacke* of *Newberie*: and firſt of his *loue and pleaſant life.*

CHAP. I.

IN the daies of King Henery the eight that moſt noble & victorious Prince, in the beginning of his reigne, Iohn Winchcomb, a broad cloth Weauer, dwelt in Newberie a towne in Barkſhire: who for that he was a man of a merry diſpoſition, & honeſt conuerſation, was wondrous well beloued of Rich and Poore, eſpecially becauſe in euery place where hee came, hee would ſpend his money with the beſt, and was not at any time found a churle of his purſe. Wherefore beeing ſo good a companion, he was called of old and young Iack of Newbery: a man ſo generally well knowne in all his countrey for his good fellowſhip, that hee could goe in no place but hee found acquaintance; by meanes whereof Iack could no ſooner get a Crowne, but ſtraight hee found meanes to ſpend it: yet had hee euer this care, that hee would alwaies keepe himſelfe in comely and decent apparell, neither at any time would hee bee ouercome in drinke, but ſo diſcreetly behaue himſelfe with honeſt mirth, and pleaſant conceits, that hee was euery Gentlemans companion.

After

After that Iacke had long led this pleasant life, being (though hee were but poore) in good estimation; it was his Masters chance to die, and his Dame to bee a Widow, who was a very comely ancient Woman, and of reasonable Wealth. Wherefore she having a good opinion of her man Iohn, committed vnto his gouernment the guiding of all hir Workefolkes, for the space of three yeares together: In which time shee found him so carefull and diligent, that all things came forward and prospered wondrous well. No man could intice him from his businesse all the weeke, by all the intreaty they cou'd vse: Insomuch that in the end some of the wilde youths of the Towne, began to deride and scoffe at him.

Doubtlesse quoth one, I doubt some female spirit hath inchaunted Iacke to his treadles, and conjured him within the compasse of his Loome, that hee can stir no further. You say truth quoth Iacke, and if you haue the leisure to stay till the Charme bee done, the space of fiue dayes and fiue nights, you shall find mee ready to put on my holy daie apparell, and on Sunday morning for your paines I will giue you a pot of Ale ouer against the Maypole. Nay quoth another, Ile lay my life, that as the Salamander cannot liue without the fire, so Iacke cannot liue without the smel of his Dames smocke. And I marueil quoth Iacke, that you beeing of the nature of the Herring (which so soone as hee is taken out of the Sea straight dyes) can liue so long with your nose out of the pot. Nay Iacke leaue thy iesting quoth another, and goe along with vs, thou shalt not stay a iot. And because I will not stay, nor make you a iper (quoth Iacke) Ile keepe me here still: and so farewell.

Thus then they departed, and after they had for halfe a score times tried him to this intent, and saw hee would not be led by them iarre, they left him to his owne will. Neuertheless, euery Sunday in the afternoone, and euery Holy day, Iacke would keepe them companie, and bee as merrie as a Pie. and hauing still good store of money in his purse one or other would euer be borrowing of him, but neuer could get

get

get penny of it againe: which when Iack perceiued, he would neuer after carry aboue twelue pence at once in his purse, and that being spent, hee would streight returne home merily, taking his leaue of the company in this sort.

My Masters I thank you, its time to pack home,
For he that wants money is counted a Mome:
And twelue pence a Sunday being spent in good cheare,
To fifty two shillings amounts in the yeare;
Enough for a crafts man that liues by his hands,
And he that exceedes it shall purchase no lands.
For that I spend this day, Ile work hard to morrow,
For woe is that party that seeketh to borrow.
My money doth make me full merry to be,
And without my money none careth for mee:
Therefore wanting money what should I do heere?
But haste home, and thanke you for all my good cheer.

Thus was Iacks good gouernment and discretion noted of the best and substantiallest men of the Towne, so that it wrought his great commendations, and his dame thought herselfe not a little blest to haue such a seruant, that was so obedient vnto her, and so carefull for her profit? for she had neuer a Prentise that yeelded her more obedience then he did, or was more dutifull: so that by his good example, he did as much good as by his diligent labour and trauaile: which his singular vertue beeing noted by the widow, shee began to cast very good countenance to her man Iohn, and to vse very much talk with him in priuate: and first by way of communication, shee would tell vnto him what suters shee had, and the great offers they made her, what gifts they sent her, and the great affection they bare her, craning his opinion in the matter.

When Iacke found the fauour to bee his dames Secretarie, he thought it an extraordinary kindnesse: and gheſſing by the matter it would proue a good Web, began to question with his deme in this sort. Although it becommeth not mee your seruant to prie into your secrets, nor to bee busie about matters of your loue: yet for so much as it hath pleased you to

to vse conference with mee in those causes, I pray you let me intreat you to know their names that bee your Tutors, and of what profession they bee.

Marie Iohn saith she that you shall, and I pray thee take a cushion and sit downe by mee. Dame quoth hee I thanke you, but there is no reason I should sit on a cushion till I haue deserued it. If thou hast not thou mightest haue done said shee: but faint Souldiers neuer find fauour. Iohn replied, that makes mee indeed to want fauour: for I dare not trie Maydens because they seeme coy, nor Wiues for feare of their Husbands, nor Widowes, doubting their disdainfulnesse. Mash Iohn (quoth shee) hee that feares and doubts Womenkind, cannot bee counted Mankind: and take this for a principle, all things are not as they seeme: but let vs leaue this and proceed to our former matter. My first Tutor dwels at Wallingford, by Trade a Tanner, a man of good wealth and his name is Crates, of comly personage, and very good behauiour, a Widower, well thought of amongst his neighbours: hee hath proper land, a faire house and well furnished, and neuer a childe in the world, and hee loues me passing well. Why then Dame quoth Iohn, you were best to haue him. Is that your opinion quoth shee? now trust me, so it is not mine. For I finde two speciall reasons to the contrary: the one is, that hee being ouerworne in yeares makes mee ouerloth to loue him: & the other, that I know one neerer hand.

Beleeue me dame (quoth Iack) I perceiue Store is no Sore, & prefered ware is worse by ten in the hundred than that which is sought: but I pray ye who is your second Tutor? Iohn quoth shee, it may seeme immodesty in me to bewray my loues secrets: yet seeing thy discretion, and being perswaded of thy secrecy, I will shew thee: the other is a man of middle yeares, but yet a Batcheler, by occupation a Taylor, dwelling at Hungerford: by report a very good husband, such a one as hath crownes good Store, and to mee he professes much good will, for his person he may please any woman. I dame quoth Iohn, because he pleaseth you. Not so said she, for my eies are

vnpartiall

vnpartiall Iudges in that case: and albeit my opinion may be contrary to others, it his sirt deceine not my eye-sight, hee is worthie of a good wife, both for his person and conditions. Then trust mee Dame (quoth Iohn) for so much as you are without doubt of your selfe that you will proue a good wife, and so well perswaded of him, I should thinke you could make no better achoice. Truly Iohn (quoth shee) there be also two reasons that moone me not to like of him: the one, that being so long a ranger, he would at home be a stranger: and the other, that I like better of one nearer hand. Who is that, quoth Iacke? Saith shee, the third Suter is the Parson of Spinhome-land, who hath a proper liuing, hee is of holy conuersation & good estimation, whose affection to me is great. No doubt Dame (quoth Iohn) you may doe wondrous well with him, where you shall haue no care but to serue GOD and to make ready his meate. O Iohn (quoth shee) the flesh and the spirit agrees not; for hee will bee so bent to his booke, that hee will haue little minde of his bed: for one moneths studying for a Sermon, will make him forget his wife a whole yeer. Truely Dame (quoth Iohn) I must needes speake in his behalfe, and the rather for that he is a man of the Church, and your neere neighbour, to whō (as I guesse) you beare the best affection: I doe not thinke that hee will bee so much bound to his booke, or subiect to the spirit, but that he will remember a woman at home or abroad. Well Iohn (quoth she) I wis my minde is not that way, for I like better of one nearer hand. No marueil (quoth Iacke) you are so peremptorie seeing you haue so much choice: but I pray ye Dame (quoth he) let me knowe this fortunate man that is so highly placed in your fauour? Iohn (quoth shee) they are worthy to knowe nothing, that cannot keepe something: that man (I tell thee) must goe nameless: for he is Lord of my loue, and King of my desires: there is neither Tanner, Taylor, nor Parson, may compare with him, his presence is a preseruatiue to my health, his sweete smiles my hearts solace, and his words heauenly musike to my eares. Why then Dame (quoth Iohn) for your bodies health, your hearts ioy, and your eares delight, delay

not the time, but entertaine him with a kisse, make his bed next yours, and chop vp the match in the morning. Well, quoth shee, I perceiue thy consent is quickly got to anie, hauing no care how I am matcht so I bee matcht: I wis, I wis I could not let thee goe so lightly, beeing loath that anyone should haue thee, except I could loue her as well as my selfe. I thanke you for your kindnesse and good will good Dame quoth hee, but it is not wisedome for a young man that can scantly keepe himselfe, to take a wife: therefore I hould it the best way to leade a single life: for I haue heard say, that manie sorrowes followe marriage, especially where want remaines: and besides, it is a hard matter to finde a constant woman: for as young maides are fickle, so are old women iealous: the one a griefe too common, the other a torment intolerable. What Iohn (quoth she) consider that maidens fickelnesse proceedes of vaine fancies, but old womens iealousie of superabounding loue, and therefore the more to bee borne withall. But Dame, quoth hee, many are iealous without cause: for is it sufficient for their mistrusting natures to take exceptions at a shadow, at a word, at a looke, at a smile, nay at the twinkle of an eye, which neither man nor woman is able to expell? I knewe a woman that was readie to hang her selfe, for seeing but her husbands shirt hang on a hedge with her maides smocke. I grant that this sorte may haunt some, quoth shee, yet there be many other that complaine not without great cause. Why, is there any cause that should moue iealousie, quoth Iohn? I by S. Mary is there quoth she: for would it not grieue a woman (being one euery way able to delight her husband) to see him forsake her, despise and contemne her, being neuer so merrie as when he is in other company, sporting abroad from morning till noone, from noone till night, and when he comes to bed, if hee turne to his wife, it is in such solemnesse, & wearisome drowsie lamenesse, that it brings rather lothsomnesse than any delight: can you then blame a woman in this case to bee angrie and displeased? Ile tell you what, among brute beasts it is a griefe intolerable: for I heard my Grandame tell that the Bel-weather of her

flocke

flocke fancying one of the Ewes aboue the reſt, and ſeeing Gratis the Shepheard abuſing her, in abhominable ſort (ſubuerting the lawe of Nature) could by no meanes beare that abuſe; but watching opportunity for reuenge, on a time found the ſaid Shepheard ſleeping in the field, and ſuddenly ranne againſt him in ſuch violent ſort, that by the force of his wreathen hornes, hee beat the braines out of the Shepheards head and ſlewe him. If then a Sheepe could not endure that iniurie, thinke not that women are ſo sheepiſh to ſuffer it. Beleeue mee (quoth Iohn) if euery horne-maker ſhould be ſo plagued by a horned beaſt, there ſhould bee leſſe hornes made in Newberie by many in a yeare. But Dame (quoth hee) to make an end of this prattle, becauſe it is an argument too deepe to be diſcuſſed betweene you and I, you ſhal heare me ſing an auld ſong, and ſo wee will depart to ſupper.

A maiden fare I daire not wed,
For feare to haue *Acteons* head.
A maiden blacke is often proud:
A madien little will be loud.
A maiden that is high of groath,
They ſay is ſubiect vnto ſloath.
Thus, faire or foule, little or tall,
Some faults remaine among them all,
But of all the faults that be,
None is ſo bad as iealouſie.
For iealouſie is fierce and fell,
And burnes as hot as fire in hell:
It breedes ſuſpicion without cauſe,
And breakes the bondes of reaſons lawes.
To none it is a greater foe,
Than vnto thoſe where it doth grow.
And God keepe me both day and night,
From that fell, fond, and vgly ſpright:
For why? of all the plagues that be,
The ſecret plague is iealouſie.
Therefore I wiſh all womenkinde,
Neuer to beare a iealous minde.

Well said Iohn (quoth she) thy song is not so sure, but thy voice is as sweet: but seeing the time agrees with our stomackes, though loth yet will wee give ouer for this time, and betake our selues to our suppers. Then calling the rest of her seruants, they fell to their meate merrily, and after supper, the Goodwife went abroad for her recreation, to walke awhile with one of her neighbours. And in the meane space Iohn got him vp into his chamber, and there began to meditate on this matter, bethinking with himselfe what hee were best to doe: for well he perceiued that his Dames affection was great towarde him: knowing therefore the womans disposition, and withall that her estate was reasonable good, and considering beside that he should finde a house ready furnished, seruants readie taught, and all other things for his trade necessarie, he thought it best not to let slip that good occasion, least hee should neuer come to the like. But againe, when hee considered her yeares to bee vnfitting to his youth, and that she that sometime had beene his Dame, would (perhaps) disdaine to be gouerned by him that had beene her poore seruant, that it would proue but a badde bargaine, doubting many inconueniences that might growe thereby, hee therefore resolued to be silent rather than to proceed further: wherefore hee got him straight to bed, and the next morning settled him selfe close to his businesse. His Dame comming home and hearing that her man was gone to bed, tooke that night but small rest, and early in the morning hearing him vp at his worke merrily singing, shee by and by arose, and in seemely sort attyring her selfe, she came into the worke-shop, and sat her downe to make quills. Quoth Iohn, Good morrow Dame, how do you to day? God a mercie Iohn (quoth shee) euen as well as I may: for I was sore troubled in my Dreames. Me thought two Doues walked together in a corne field, the one (as it were) in communication with the other, without regard of picking vp any thing to sustaine themselues: and after they had with many nods spent some time to their content, they both fell hard, with their pretie bils, to pecke vp the scattered corne, left by the wearie Reapers

pers hand. At length (finding themselues satisfied) it chanced another Pigion to light in that place, with whome one of the first Pigions at length kept companie: and after, returning to the place where she left her first companion, perceiued he was not there, shee kindly searching vp and downe the bigge stubble to finde him, lighted at length on a hogge fast asleep, wherewith me thought the poore Done was so dismaid, that presently shee fell downe in a trance. I seeing her legges faile, and her wings quiuer, yeelding her selfe to death, moued with pittie ranne vnto her, and thinking to take vp the Pigion, mee thought I had in my hands my owne heart, wherein me thought an arrow stucke so deepe, that the blood trickled downe the shaft, and lay vpon the feathers like the cleer pearled deawe on the greene grasse. which made me to weepe most bitterly. But presently mee thought there came one to me crowned like a Queene, who told mee my heart would die, except in time I got some of that sleeping hogges grease to heale the wounds thereof. Whereupon I ranne in all haste to the Hog with my heart bleeding in my hand, who (mee thought) grunted at mee in most churlish sort, and vanisht out of my sight. Whereupon comming straite home, me thought I found this Hog rusling among my Looms, wherewith I presently awaked, sodainely after midnight. being all in a sweate and very ill: and I am sure you could not choose but heare mee groane. Truste mee Dame I heard you not (quoth Iohn) I was so sound asleepe. And thus (quoth shee) a woman may die in the night before you will haue the care to see what shee ailes, or aske what she lackes. But truly Iohn (quoth she) all is one, for if thou shouldest haue come, thou couldest not haue got in, because my chamber doore was lockt: but while I liue this shall teach mee wit, for henceforth I will haue no other lock but a latch, till I am married. Then Dame (quoth he) I perceiue though you bee curious in your choise, yet at length you will marrie. I truly (quoth shee) so thou wilt not hinder me. Who I quoth Iohn? on my faith Dame not for a hundred pounds, but rather will further you to the vttermost of my power. Indeede

(quoth she) then hast no reason to shew any discurtesie to me in that matter, although some of our neighbours do not stick to say, that I am sure to thee already. If it were so (quoth Iohn) there is no cause to denie it, or to bee ashamed thereof, knowing my selfe farre unworthie of so high a favour. Well let this talke rest quoth shee, and take there thy quils, for it is time for me to goe to market.

Thus the matter rested for two or three dayes, in which space she daily devised which way shee might obtaine her desire, which was to marrie her man. Many things came in her head, and sundrie sleights in her minde, but none of them did fit her fancie, so that shee became wondrous sad, and as civill as the nine Sibbels; and in this melancholie humour continued three weekes, or a moneth, till at last it was her lucke upon a Bartholmew day (having a Fayre in the towne to spie her man Iohn give a paire of Gloves to a proper maide for a Fayring, which the maiden with a bashfull modestie kindly accepted, and requited it with a kisse: which kindled in her an inward iealousie: but notwithstanding very discreetly shee covered it, and closely past along unspied of her man or the maid.

Shee had not gone farre but shee met with one of her suters namely the Taylor, who was verie fine and brieke in his apparell, and needes hee would bestow the wine upon the Widow: and after some faint denial, meeting with a Gossip of hers to the Taverne they went, which was more curteste than the Taylor could ever get of her before, shewing her selfe verie pleasant and merrie: and finding her in such a pleasing humour, the Taylor after a new quart of wine renewed his old suite: the Widow with patience heard him, and gently answered, that in respect of his great good will long time borne unto her, as also in regard of his gentlenesse cost and curtesie, at that present bestowed, shee would not flatly denie him. Therefore (quoth shee) seeing this is not a place to conclude of such matters: if I may intreate you to come to my poore house on Thursday next, you shall be heartily welcome, and be further satisfied of my minde: and thus

preferred

preferred to a touch of her lips, hee payed the shot and departed. The Taylor was scant out of sight, when shee met with the Tanner: who albeit hee was aged, yet lustily he saluted her, and to the wine she must, there was no nay. The Widdow seeing his importunacie, calles her gossip, and along they walked together. The olde man called for wine plentie, and the best cheere in the house: and in hartie manner hee biddes the Widow welcome. They had not sitten long, but in comes a noyse of Musitions in tawnie coates, who (putting off their caps) asked if they would haue any Musicke. The Widow answered no, they were merrie enough. Cut quoch the oldeman, let vs heare good fellowes what you can doe, and play mee The beginning of the World. Alas, quoch the widow, you had more need to harken to ẏ ending of the world. Why Widowe, quoch hee, I tell thee the beginning of the world was the begetting of Children: and if you find mee faultie in that occupation, turne mee out of thy bed for a bungler, and then send for the Sexton. Hee had no sooner spoke the word, but the Parson of Speen with his corner cap, popt in at the doore, who seeing the widow sitting at the table craued pardon and came in. Quoch shee, for want of the Sexton, heere is the Priest if you need him. Mary (quoth the Tanner) in good time, for by this meanes wee need not goe farre to bee married. Sir quoch the Parson, I shall doe my best in conuenient place. Wherein, quoch the Tanner? To wed her my selfe quoth the Parson. Nay soft, sayde the Widow, one Swallow makes not a Sommer, nor one meeting a marriage: as I lighted on you vnlookt for, so came I hither vnprouided for the purpose. I trust quoch the Tanner, you came not without your eyes to see, your tongue to speake, your eares to heare, your hands to feele, nor your legs to goe. I brought my eyes, quoth she, to discerne colours, my tongue to say No to questions I like not, my hands to thrust from me the things ẏ I loue not, my eares to iudge twixt flatterie, & friendship, & my feet to run from such as would wrong me. Why then quoth the Parson by your gentle abiding in this place, it is euident that here are none but those you like & loue,

loue. God forbid I should hate my friends (quoth the widow) whom I take all these in this place to bee. But, there be diuers sorts of loues, quoth the Parson. You say truth, quoth the Widow: I loue your selfe for your profession, and my friend the Tanner, for his curtesie and kindnesse, and the rest for their good company. Yet (quoth the Parson) for the explaining of your loue, I pray you drinke to them you loue best in the company. Why (quoth the Tanner) haue you any hope in her loue? Beleeue me (saith the Parson) as much as another. Why then Parson sit downe, sais the Tanner: for, you that are equall with mee in desire, shall surely be halfe with mee in the shotte: and so Widow, on Gods name fulfill the Parsons request. Seeing (quoth the widow) you are so pleasantly bent, if my courtesie might not breede contention betweene you, and that I may haue your fauour to shewe my fancie, I will fulfill your request. Quoth the Parson, I am pleased howsoeuer it bee. And I, quoth the Tanner. Why then (quoth shee) with this cup of Claret wine and Sugar, I heartily drinke to the Mintlreis boy. Why, is it hee you loue best, quoth the Parson? I haue reason, sayd shee, to like and loue them best, that will bee least offended with my doings. Nay Widow (quoth they) wee meant you should drinke to him whom you loued best in ỳ way of marriage. Quoth the Widow, you should haue sayd so at first: but, to tell you my opinion, it is small discretion for a woman to disclose her secret affection in an open assembly: therefore, if to that purpose you spake, let mee intreat you both to come home to my house on Thursday next, where you shall be heartily welcome, and there be fully resolued of my mind: and so, with thankes at this time, I'le take my leaue. The shot being paid, and the Musitians pleased, they all departed, the Tanner to Wallingford, the Parson to Speen, and the widow to her own house: where in her wonted solemnes shee settled her selfe to her businesse.

Against Thursday shee drest her house fine and braue, and set her selfe in her best apparell: the Taylor nothing forgetting his promise sent to the Widowe a good fat Pigge, and a

Goose,

Goose. The Parson beeing as mindfull as hee, sent to her house a couple of fat Rabbets and a Capon: and the Tanner came himselfe and brought a good shoulder of Mutton, and halfe a dozen Chickens, beside hee brought a good gallon of Sacke, and halfe a pound of the best sugar. The Widowe receiuing this good meate, set her maide to dresse it incontinent, and when dinner time drew neere, the Table was couered, and euery other thing prouided in conuenient and comely sort.

At length the guests being come, the Widow bad them al heartily welcome. The Priest and the Tanner seeing the Taylor, mused what hee made there: the Taylor on the other side, marueiled as much at their presence. Thus looking strangely one at another, at length the widow came out of the kitchin, in a faire traine gowne stucke full of siluer pinnes, a fine white cap on her head, with cuts of curious needle worke vnder the same, and an apron before her as white as the driuen snowe: then verie modestly making curtsie to them all, shee requested them to sit downe. But they straining curtesie the one with the other, the Widow with a smiling countenance, tooke the Parson by the hand saying: Sir, as you stand highest in the Church, so is it meet you should sit highest at the Table: and therefore I pray you sit downe there on the bench side. And sir said shee to the Tanner, as age is to bee honoured before youth for their experience, so are they to sit above Batchelers for their grauitie, and so she set him downe on this side the Table, ouer against the Parson. Then comming to the Taylor shee sayd; Batchler, though your lot bee the last, your welcome is equall with the first, and seeing your place points out it selfe, I pray you take a cushion and sit downe. And now (quoth shee) to make the boord equall, and because it hath beene an ould saying, that three things are to small purpose, if the fourth be awaie: if so it may stand with your fauours, I will call in a Gossip of mine to supplie this voide place. With a good will quoth they. With that shee brought in an olde woman with scant euer a good tooth in her head, and placed her right against

the Bachelor. Then was the meate brought to the boorde in due order by the Widowes seruants, her man Iohn beeing chiefe seruitor. The Widow sate downe at the Tables end betweene the Parson and the Tanner, who in very good sort carued meate for them all, her man Iohn waiting on the table.

After they had sitten a while, and wel refreshed themselues, the Widow taking a Christall glasse filde with claret Wine, drunke vnto the whole companie, and bade them welcome. The Parson pledged her, and so did all the rest in one order; but still in their company the cup past ouer the poore olde Womans nose: insomuch that at length the olde Woman (in a merrie vaine) spake thus vnto the companie: I haue had much good meate among you; but as for the drinke I can no thing commend it. Alas good Gossip (quoth the Widow) I perceiue no man hath drunke to thee yet. No truly quoth the old Woman, for Churchmen haue so much minde of young Rabbets, old men such ioie in young Chickens, and Bachelors in Pigs flesh take such delight, that an old Sow, a tough Henne, or a gray Coney are not accepted: and so it is seene by mee, else I should haue beene better remembred. Well old woman quoth the Parson, take heere the leg of a Capon to stop thy mouth. Now by S. Anne I dare not, quoth she. For wherefore said the Parson? Marie for feare least you should goe home with a Crutch, quoth shee. The Taylor said, then taste here a peece of Goose. Now God forbid, sayde the old Woman, let Goose goe to his kinde: you haue a young stomacke, eate it your selfe, and much good may it doe your hart sweet young man. The old woman lacks most of her teeth, quoth the Tanner, and therefore a peece of tender Chicke is fittest for her. If I did lacke as many of my teeth, quoth the olde woman, as you lacke points of good husbandrie, I doubt I should starue before it were long. At this the Widowe laught heartily, and the men were stricken into such a dumpe, that they had not a word to say. Dinner being ended, the widow with the rest rose from the Table, and after they had sitten a prettie while merrily talking, the Widow called

called her man Iohn to bring her a bowle of fresh ale, which hee did. Then sayd the Widow: My masters, now for your curtesie and cost I heartily thanke you all, and in requitall of all your favour, love and good-will, I drinke to you, giuing you free libertie when you please to depart. At these words her suitors looked so sowrely one vpon another, as if they had beene newly champing of Crabs which when the Taylor heard, shaking vp himselfe in his new russet Jerkin, and setting his hat on one side, hee began to speake thus. I trust sweete widow (quoth hee) you remember to what ende my comming was hither to day, I haue long time beene a suitor vnto you, and this day you promised to giue me a direct answer. Tis true, quoth shee, and so I haue: for your loue I giue you thankes, and when you please you may depart. Shall I not haue you said the Taylor? Alas (quoth the Widow) you come too late. Good friend (quoth the Tanner) it is manners for young men to let their elders bee serued before them: to what end should I bee here if the widow should haue three such dentall is meete for a sauncie suitor: but what saist thou to mee faire widow (quoth the Tanner)? Sir said shee, because you are so sharp set, I would wish you as soone as you can to wed. Appoint the time your self quoth the Tanner. Euen asoone (quoth shee) as you can get a Wife, and hope not after mee, for I am already promised. Now Tanner you may take your place with the Taylor, quoth the Parson, for indeede the Widow is for no man but my selfe. Maister Parson (quoth shee) many haue runne neere the goale, and yet lost the game, and I cannot helpe it though your hope bee in vaine: besides, Parsons are but newly suffered to haue wiues, and for my part I will haue none of the first head. What (quoth the Taylor) is our merriment growne to this reckoning? I neuer spent a Pig and a Goose to so bad purpose before? I promise you when I came in, I verilie thought that you were inuited by the Widowe to make her and me sure together, and that the iolly Tanner was brought to bee a witnesse to the contract, and the old Woman fetcht in for the same purpose; else I would

neuer haue put vp so many drie bobs at her hands. And surely quoth the Tanner, I knowing thee to bee a Taylor, did assuredly think that thou wast appointed to come and take measure for our weedding apparell. But now we are all deceiued quoth the Parson, and therefore as wee same fooles, so wee may depart hence like asses. That is as you interpret the matter, said the Widow: for I euer doubting that a concluding answer would breede a iarre in the end among you euery one, I thought it better to bee done at one instant, and in mine owne house, than at sundry times and in common Tauernes: and as for the meate you sent, as it was vnrequested of mee, so had you your part thereof, and if you think good to take home the remainder, prepare your wallets and you shall haue it. Nay Widow quoth they, although wee haue lost our labours, wee haue not altogether lost our manners: that, which you haue keepe, and God send to vs better lucke, and to you your hearts desire, and with that they departed.

The Widow being glad shee was thus rid of her guestes, when her man Iohn with all the rest sate at supper, she sitting in a chaire by, spake thus vnto them. Well my masters, you sawe that this day your poore Dame had her choise of husbands, if shee had listed to marrie, and such as would haue loued and maintained her like a woman. Tis true quoth Iohn, and I pray God yun haue not withstoode your best fortune. Trust me (quoth shee) I know not, but if I haue I may thank mine owne foolish fancie.

Thus it past on from Bartholomewtide, till it was neere Christmas, at what time the weather was so wonderfull cold, that all the running Riuers round about the Towne were frozen very thicke. The Widowe beeing very loath any longer to lie without companie, in a colde winters night made a great fire, and sent for her man Iohn: hauing also prepared a chaire and a cushion, shee made him sit downe therein, and sending for a pinte of good Sacke, they both went to supper.

In the ende bed time comming on, shee caused her maide

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in a merriment to plucke off his hose and shoes, and caused him to bee laide in his masters best bed, standing in the best Chamber, hung round about with very faire curtaines. Iohn being thus preferred, thought himselfe a Gentleman, and lying soft, after his hard labour and a good supper, quickly fell asleepe.

About midnight, the Widow being cold on her feet, crept into her mans bed to warme them. Iohn feeling one lift vp the cloathes, asked who was there? O good Iohn it is I, quoth the widow, the night is so extreame colde, and my Chamber walles so thin, that I am like to be starued in my bed: wherefore rather then I would any way hazard my health, I thought it much better to come hither and trie your curtesie, to haue a little roome beside you.

Iohn being a kind young man would not say her nay, and so they spent the rest of the night both together in one bed. In the morning betime shee rose vp and made her selfe ready, and willed her man Iohn to runne and fetch her a Link with all speede: for quoth shee, I haue earnest businesse to do this morning. Her man did so. Which done shee made him to carrie the Linke before her, vntill she came to Saint Bartholomewes Chappell, where Sir Iohn the Priest with his Clark and Sexton, stoode waiting for her. Iohn quoth shee, turne into the Chappell, for before I goe further, I will make my prayers to S. Bartholmew, so shall I speed the better in my businesse. When they were come in, the Priest according to his order came to her, and asked where the Bridegroome was? Quoth she, I thought he had beene here before me. Sir (quoth shee) I will sit downe and say ouer my beades, and by that time hee will come. Iohn mused at this matter, to see that his Dame should so sodainly bee married, and hee hearing nothing thereof before. The Widowe rising from her prayers, the Priest tolde her that the Bridegreome was not yet come. Is it true, quoth the widow, I promise you I will stay no longer for him if he were as good as George a Green: and therefore dispatch quoth shee, and marrie me to my man

Iohn. Why Dame (quoth he) you doe but iest I trowe. Iohn (quoth shee) I iest not: for so I meane it shall bee, and stand not strangely, but remember that you did promise mee on your faith not to hinder mee, when I came to the Church to bee married, but rather to set it forward: therefore set your tink aside and giue mee your hand, for none but you shall be my husband. Iohn seeing no remedy consented, because he sawe the matter could not otherwise bee amended; and married they were presently. When they were come home, Iohn entertained his Dame with a kisse: which the other seruants seeing, thought him somthing sawcie. The Widow caused the best cheere in the house to bee set on the Table, and to breakfast they went, causing her new husband to bee set in a chaire at the Tables end, with a faire napkin laid on his trencher: then shee called out the rest of her seruants, willing them to sit downe and take part of their good cheere. They wondring to see their fellow Iohn sit at the Tables end in their old maisters chaire, began heartily to smile, and openly to laugh at ỹ matter, especially because their Dame so kindly sate by his side: which shee perceiuing, asked if that were all the manners they could shew before their maister: I tell you quoth shee, he is my husband, for this morning we were maried, and therefore hence forward looke you acknowledge your duty towardes him. The folkes looked one vpon another, marueiling at this strange newes. Which when Iohn perceiued, hee said: My maisters muse not at all: for although by Gods prouidence and your Dames fauour, I am preferred from being your fellow to bee your Maister, I am not thereby so much puft vp in pride, that any way I will forget my former estate: Notwithstanding, seeing I am now to holde the place of a Maister, it shall bee wisedome in you to forget what I was, and to take mee as I am; and in dooing your diligence, you shall haue no cause to repent that God made mee your maister. The seruants hearing this, as also knowing his good gouernment before time, past their yeares with him in dutifull manner.

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The next daie the report was over all the Towne, that Iacke of Newbery had married his Dame: so that when the Woman walked abroad, euery one had God giue her ioy: some said that shee was matcht to her sorrow, saying, that so lustie a young man as he, would neuer loue her being so auncient. Whereupon the Woman made answer, that shee would take him downe in his wedding shooes, and would trie his patience in the prime of his lustinesse: whereunto many of her Gossips did likewise encourage her. Euery daie therefore for the space of a moneth after shee was married, it was her ordinarie custome, to goe forth in the morning among her gossips and acquaintance to make merrie, and not to returne home till night, without any regarde of her household. Of which, at her comming home, her husband did very oftentimes admonish her in very gentle sort, shewing what great inconvenience would grow thereby: the which sometime shee would take in gentle part, and somtime in disdaine, saying;

I am now in very good case, that hee which was my seruant but the other day, will now bee my master; this it is for a Woman to make her foot her head. The day hath beene when I might haue gone forth when I would, and come in againe when it had pleased me without controulement: & now I must bee subiect to euery Iackes checke. I am sure (quoth she) that by my gadding abroad, and carelesse spending I waste no goods of thine. I pitying thy pouertie, made thee a man, and maister of the house, but not to the end I would become thy slaue. I scorne, I tel thee true, that such a youngling as thy selfe should correct my conceit, and giue mee instructions, as if I were not able to guide my selfe: but faith faith, you shall not vse me like a babe, nor bridle me like an Asse: and seeing my going abroad greeues thee, where I haue gone forth one day I will goe abroad three, and for one houre I will stay fiue. Well (quoth her husband) I trust you will be better aduised: and with that hee went from her about his businesse, leauing her sweating in her fustian furies.

Thus

Thus the time past on, till on a certaine day shee had beene abroad in her wonted manner, and staying forth very late he shut the doores and went to bed. About midnight shee comes to the dooze and knockes to come in: to whom he looking out of the window, answered in this sort.

What, is it you that keepes such a knocking? I pray you get hence and request the Constable to prouide you a bed, for this night, you shall haue no lodging heere. I hope quoth shee, you will not shut me out of doores like a dogge, or let me lie in the streetes like a strumpet. Whether like a dogge or drab, quoth hee, all is one to mee, knowing no reason but that as you haue stayed out all day for your delight, so you may lie forth all night for my pleasure. Both birds and beastes at the nights approach prepare to their rest, and obserue a conuenient time to returne to their habitation. Looke but vpon the poore spider, the frogge, the flie, and euery other silly worme, and you shall see all these obserue time to returne to their home: and if you beeing a woman will not doe the like, content your selfe to beare the brunt of your owne folly, and so farewell.

The Woman hearing this, made pitious moane, and in verie humble sort intreated him to let her in, and to pardon this offence, and while shee liued vowed neuer to doe the like. Her husband at length beeing mooued with pittie towardes her, slipt on his shooes and came downe in his shirt: the dooze being opened, in shee went quaking, as bee as was about to locke it againe, in very sorrowfull manner she said; Alacke husband, what hap haue I? My wedding Ring was euen now in my hand, and I haue let it fall about the dooze, good sweet Iohn come forth with the Candle and help mee to seeke it. The man incontinent did so, and while hee sought for that which was not there to bee found, shee whipt into the house, and quickly clapping to the dooze, she lockt her husband out. He stood calling with the candle in his hand to come in, but shee made as if shee heard not. Anon shee went vp into her chamber, and carried the key with her: but when hee saw shee would not answere, he presently began to knock as lowd

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as bee could at the doore. At last shee thrust her head out at the window, saying: who is there? Tis I quoth Iohn, what meancyou by this? I pray you come downe and open the dooze that I may come in.

What sir, quoth shee, is it you? haue you nothing to doe but daunce about the streetes at this time of night, and like a Spirit of the Buttery hunt after Crickets, are you so hot that the house cannot hold you? Nay I pray thee, sweet heart quoth he doo not gibe any longer, but let me in. O sir, remember quoth she, how you stood euen now at the window, like a Iudge on the bench, and in taunting sort kept me out of my owne howse. How now Iacke, am I euen with you? What Iohn my man, were you so lustie to lock your Dame out of doores? Sirra, remember you bad me goe to the Constable to get lodging: now you haue leisure to trie if his wife will preferre you to a bed. You sir Sawce, that made me stand in the colde till my feete did freeze, and my teeth chatter, while you stood preaching of birds and beasts telling mee a tale of spiders, flyes, and frogges: goe trie now if any of them will be so friendly to let thee haue lodging. Why go you not man? feare not to speake with them, for I am sure you shall finde them at home: thinke not they are such lubbish bands as you, to bee abroad at this time of night.

With this, Iohns patience was greatly moued, insomuch that hee deepely swore, that if shee would not let him in hee would breake downe the dooze. Why Iohn quoth she, you needs not bee so hot, your clothing is not so warme: and because I thinke this will bee a warning vnto yee against another time how you shut mee out of my house, catch, there is the key, come in at thy pleasure, and look you go to bed to your fellowes, for with mee thou shalt not lie to night. With that shee clapt to the casement, and got her to bedde, locking the chamber dooze fast. Her husband that knew it was in vaine to seeke to come into her Chamber, and seeing no longer able to endure the colde, got him a place among his Prentices, and there slept soundly. In the morning his wife

rose betime, and merily made him a Cawdell, and bringing it vp to his bed, asked him how he did.

Quoth Iohn, troubled with a shrewe, who the longer she liues the worse shee is: and as the people of Illyria kill men with their lookes, so shee kils her husbands hart with vntoward conditions. But trust mee, wife quoth hee, seeing I finde you of such crooked qualities, that (like the Spider) ye turne the sweete flowers of good counsell into venemous poyson, from henceforth I will leaue you to your own wilfulnes, and neither bere my minde nor trouble my selfe to restraine you: the which if I had wisely done last night, I had kept the house in quiet, and my selfe from cold. Husband (quoth shee) thinke that women are like Starlings, that will burst their gall before they will yeelde to the Fowler: or like the fish Scolopendra, that cannot be touched without danger. Notwithstanding, as the hard steele doth yeelde to the hammers stroke, being vsed to his kinde, so will women to their husbands, where they are not too much crost. And seeing yee haue sworne to giue mee my will, I bowe likewise that my wilfulnesse shall not offend you. I tell you husband, the noble nature of a woman is such, that for their louing friends they will not sticke (like the Pellican) to pearce their owne hearts to doo them good. And therefore forgiuing each other all iniuries past, hauing also tried one anothers patience, let vs quench these burning coales of contention, with the sweete iuice of a faithfull kisse; and shaking hands, bequeath all our anger to the eating vp of this Cawdle. Her husband curteously consented: and after this time, they liued long together, in most godly, louing and kind sort, till, in the end she died, leauing her husband wondrous wealthie.

Of

# of Iacke of Newbery.

CHAP.

Of Iacke *of* Newbery *his great wealth, and number of ſeruants : and alſo how hee brought the Queen* Katherin *two hundred and fifty men prepared for the warre at his owne coſt againſt the King of Scots at* Flodden *field.*

NOw Iacke of Newberie beeing a widower, had the choiſe of many Wiues, mens daughters of good credit and widowes of great wealth. Notwithſtanding he bent his onely like to one of his owne ſeruants, whom hee had tried in the guiding of his houſe a yeere or two: and knowing her carefull in her buſineſſe, faithfull in her dealing, and an excellent good huſwife, thought it better to haue her with nothing, than ſome other with much treaſure. And beſides, as her qualities were good, ſo was ſhe of very comely perſonage, of a ſweete fauour, and faire complexion. In the end hee opened his mind vnto her, and craued her good will. The maid (though ſhee tooke this motion kindly) ſaid ſhee would do nothing without conſent of her Parents. Whereupon a Letter was writ to her Father, being a poore man dwelling at Alſeburie in Buckinghamſhire: who being toſſull of his daughters good fortune, ſpeedily came to Newbery, where of her maſter he was frendly entertained: who after hee had made him good cheare, ſhewed him all his ſeruants at worke, and euery office in his houſe.

Within one roome being large and long,
There ſtood two hundred Looms full ſtrong:
Two hundred men, the truth is ſo,
Wrought in theeſe Looms all in a rowe.
By euery one a prety boy,
Sate making quils with mickle ioie.
And in another place hard by,
An hundred women merrily,
Were carding hard with ioyfull cheere,

Who ſinging ſate with voices cleare.
And in a chamber cloſe beſide,
Two hundred maidens did abide,
In peticoates of ſtammel red,
And milke-white kerchers on their head:
Their ſmocke ſleeues like to winter ſnow,
That on the Weſterne mountaines flow,
And each ſleeue with a ſilken band,
Was ſeately tyed at the hand.
Theſe prety maides did neuer lin,
But in that place all day did ſpin:
And ſpinning ſo with voices meete,
Like Nightingales they ſung full ſweet.
Then to another roome came they,
Where children were in poore aray:
And euery one ſate picking wooll,
The fineſt from the courſe to cull:
The number was ſeauen ſcore and ten,
The children of poore ſilly men:
And theſe, their labours to requite,
Had euery one a penny at night:
Beſide their meate and drink all day,
Which was to them a wondrous ſtay.
Within another place likewiſe,
Full fiftie proper men he ſpies,
And theſe were Shearemen euery one,
Whoſe skill and cunning there was ſhowne:
And hard by them there did remaiue,
Full foure ſcore Rowers taking paine.
A Dye-houſe likewiſe had he then,
Wherein he kept full forty men:
And likewiſe in his Fulling mill,
Full twenty perſons kept he ſtill.
Each weeke ten good fat Oxen he
Spent in his houſe for certainty:
Beſide good butter, cheeſe, and fiſh,
And many another holeſome diſh.

He kept a Butcher all the the yeere,
A Brewer eke for Ale and Beere:
A Baker for to bake his bread,
Which ſtood his houſhold in good ſtead.
Fiue Cookes within his kitchin great,
Were all the yeare to dreſſe his meate.
Six ſcullian boyes vnto their hands,
To make cleane diſhes, pots and pans:
Beſide poore children that did ſtay,
To turne the broaches euery day.
The olde man that did ſee this ſight,
Was much amaz'd, as well he might:
This was a gallant Cloathier ſure,
Whoſe fame for euer ſhall endure.

When the olde man had ſeene this great houſhold and familie, then hee was brought into the Ware-houſes, ſome being fild with wooll, ſome with ſtockes, ſome with woad and madder, and ſome with broad cloathes and kerſies ready dyed and dreſt, beſide a great number of others, ſome ſtretcht on the Tenters, ſome hanging on poles, and a great many more lying wet in other places. Sir (quoth the olde man) I-wis che zee you bee bominable rich, and chaim content you ſhall haue my daughter, and Gods bleſſing and mine light on you both.

But Father (quoth Iack of Newbery) what will you beſtow with her? Mary bear you (quoth the old man) I vaith chaim but a pooze man, but I thong God, chaim of good reclamation among my neighbours, and they will as zoone take my vice for any thing as a richer mans: thicke I will beſtowe, you ſhall haue with a good will: becauſe che beare very good condemnation of you in euery place, therefore chill giue you twenty Nobles and a weaning Caiſe, and when I dye and my Wife, you ſhall haue the reuelation of all my goods.

When Iack heard his offer hee was ſtraight content, making more reckning of the womans modeſtie, than her Fathers money. So the marriage day beeing appointed, all

things were prepared meet for the wedding, and royal cheere ordained; most of the Lordes, Knights, and Gentlemen thereabout, were invited thereunto: the Bride being attired in a Gowne of sheepes russet, and a kertle of fine woolled, her head attired with a billiment of gold, and her haire as yellow as golde hanging downe behind her, which was curiously combd and pleated; according to the manner in those dayes, shee was led to Church betweene two sweet boyes, with Bride laces & Rosemary tied about their silken sleeves, the one of them was sonne to Sir Thomas Parrie, the other to Sir Francis Hungerford. Then was there a fayre Bride cup of silver and gilt carried before her, wherein was a goodly branch of Rosemary gilded very faire, hung about with silken Ribonds of all colours: next was there a noyse of Musicians that played all the way before her: after her came all the chiefest maydens of the Countrie, some bearing great Bride Cakes, and some Garlands of wheate finely gilded, and so shee past vnto the Church.

It is needelesse for mee to make any mention heere of the Bridegroome: who being a man so well beloued, wanted no companie, and those of the best sort, besides diuers Marchant Strangers of the Stilyard, that came from London to the Wedding. The marriage being solemnized, home they came in order as before, and to dinner they went, where was no want of good cheere, no lacke of melodie: Rhennish Wine at this wedding was as plentifull as Beere or Ale, for the Marchants had sent thither ten Tunnes of the best in the Stilyard.

This wedding endured ten dayes, to the great reliefe of the poore, that dwelt all about: and in the ende the Brides Father and Mother came to pay their Daughters portion: which when the Bridegroome had receiued, hee gaue them great thankes: Notwithstanding hee would not suffer them yet to depart: and against they should goe home, their sonne in law came vnto them, saying: Father, and Mother, all the thankes that my poore heart can yeeld, I giue you for your good will, cost, and curtesie, and while I liue make bolde to

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bſe me in any thing that I am able, and in requitall of the gift you gaue mee with your daughter, I giue you heere twenty pound to bestowe as you finde occasion; and for your losse of time, and charges riding vp and downe, I giue you heere as much broade cloath as shall make you a cloake: my mother a holiday gowne, and when this is worne out, come to mee and fetch more.

O my good sonne (quoth the old woman) Christs benizon bee with thee euermore: for to tell thee true, we had sold al our kine to make money for my Daughters marriage, and this seauen yeare we should not haue been able to buy more: notwithstanding wee should haue sold all that euer wee had, before my poore wench should haue lost her marriage. I (quoth the olde man) chud haue sold my coate from my back, and my bed from vnder me, before my Girle should haue gone without you. I thank you good father and mother, said the Bride, and I pray God long to keep you in health: then the Bride kneeled down & did her dutie to her Parents; who weeping for very ioy, departed.

Not long after this, it chaunced while our Noble King was making warre in France, that Iames, king of Scotland, falsly breaking his oath inuaded England with a great army and did much hurt vpon the Borders: whereupon on the sodaine euerie man was appointed according to his abilitie to be readie with his men and furniture at an houres warning, on paine of death. Iacke of Newberie was commanded by the Iustices to set out fiue men, foure armed with Pikes and two Calieuers, & to meete the Queene in Buckinghamshire, who was there raising a great power to goe against the faithlesse king of Scots.

When Iacke had receiued this charge, hee came home in all haste, and cut out a whole broadcloth for horsemens coats, and so much more as would make vp coates for the number of a hundred men: in short time hee had made readie fiftie tall men well mounted in white coates, and red caps with yellowe Feathers, Demilances in their hands, and fiftie

armed

rsmed men on foot with Pikes, and fiftie shot in white coats also, euery man so expert in the handling of his weapon, as scarce better were found in the field. Himselfe likewise in compleat armour on a goodly Barbed Horse, rode formost of the companie, with a launce in his hand, and a faire plume of yellow feathers in his crest, and in this sort hee came before the Justices: who at the first approach did not a little wonder what hee should be.

At length when he had discouered what he was, the Justices and most of the Gentlemen gaue him great commendations for this his good and forward mind shewed in this action: but some other enuying heereat gaue out words that her shewed himselfe more prodigall then prudent, and more vaine glorious then well aduised, seeing that the best Nobleman in the Countrie would scarce haue done so much: and no marueil (quoth they) for such a one would call to his remembrance, that the King had often occasions to vrge his subiects to such charges, and therefore would do at one time as they might bee able to doe at another: but Iacke of Newbery, like the Storke in the Spring time, thinks the highest Cedar too lowe for him to build his neast in, and eare the yeare bee halfe done may bee glad to haue his bed in a bush.

These disdainefull speeches being at last brought to Iacke of Newberies eare, though it grieued him much, yet patiently put them vp till time conuenient. Within a while after, all the Souldiers in Barkshire, Hampshire, & Wilshire, were commanded to shew themselues before the Queene at Stonny Stratford, where her Grace with many Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen were assembled, with tenne thousand men. Against Iacke should goe to the Queen, hee caused his face to bee smeared with blood, and his white coate in like manner.

When they were come before her Highnesse, she demanded (aboue all the rest) what those white coates were? Whereupon, Sir Henery Englefield (who had the leading of the Barkshire men) made answere,

That

May it please your Maiestie to vnderstand me, that hee which rideth formost there, is called Iacke of Newbery, and all those gallant men in white, are his owne seruants, who are maintained all the yeare by him, whom hee at his owne cost hath set out in this time of extremitie, to serue the King against his vaunting foe: and I assure your Maiesty there is not, for the number, better Souldiers in the field.

Good Sir Henry (quoth the Queene) bring the man to mee that I may see him: which was done accordingly. Then Iacke with all his men alighted, and humbly on their knees fell before the Queene: Her Grace said, Gentleman arise, and putting forth her little white hand, gave it him to kisse. Most gratious Queene quoth hee, Gentleman I am none, nor the sonne of a Gentleman, but a poore Clothier, whose lands are his Looms, having no other Rents but what I get from the backes of little sheepe, nor can I claime any cognisance but a wodden shuttle. Neuertheless, most gratious Queene, these my poore seruants and my selfe, with life and goods are readie at your Maiesties commaund, not onely to spend our bloods, but also to lose our lives in defence of our King and Countrey.

Welcome to mee Iacke of Newberie, saide the Queene, though a Clothier by trade, yet a Gentleman by condition, and a faithfull subiect in heart: and if thou chance to haue any sute in Court, make account the queene will bee thy friend, and would to God the King had many such Clothiers. But tell mee, how came thy white coate besmeared with blood, and thy face so scratcht? May it please your Grace (quoth hee) to vnderstand, that it was my chaunce to meete with a Monster, who like the people Cynomolgi, had the proportion of a man, but headed like a dogge, the biting of whose teeth was like the poysoned tooth of a Crocodile, his breath like the Basiliskes, killing afarre off. I vnderstand, his name was Cnute, who assailed mee inuisibly, like the wicked spirit of Mogunce, who flung stones at men and could not bee seene: and so I come by my scratcht face, not knowing when it was done. What was the cause this monster

should assist thee above the rest of thy company, or other men in the field. Although most Soueraigne Queen, quoth hee, this poysoned carre inarieth at many, and that few can escape the hurt of his woonding breath, yet at this time hee bent his force against mee, not for any hurt I did him, but because I surpass him in heartie affection to my Soueraigne Lord, and with the poore Widowe offered all I had to serue my Prince and Countery. It were happy for England, sayd the Queene, if in euery market Towne there were a Iybbet to hang vp carres of that kind: who like Æsops doggelying in the maunger, will doe no good himselfe, nor suffer such as would to doe any.

This speech beeing ended, the Queene caused her Army to bee set in order, and in warlike manner to march toward Flodden, where King Iames had pitcht his field. But as they passed along with Drum and Trumpet, there came a Post from the valiant Earle of Surrey, with tydings to her Grace, that now shee might dismisse her Army, for that it had pleased God to grant the noble Earle victorie ouer the Scots: whome hee had by his wisedome and valiancie vanquisht in fight, and slayne their King in battel. Vpon which newes her Maiestie discharged her Forces, and ioyfully tooke her iourney to London, with a pleasant countenance, praysing God for her famous victorie, and yeelding thankes to all the Noble Gentlemen and Souldiers for their readinesse in the action, giuing many giftes to the Nobilitie, and great rewards to the Souldiers: among whom shee nothing forgot Iacke of Newberie, about whose necke shee put a rich chaine of gold: at what time he with all the rest gaue a great shout, saying God sane Katherin the noble Queene of England. Many Noble men of Scotland were taken prisoners at this battell, and manie more slaine: so that there neuer came a greater foyle to Scotland than this: for you shall vnderstand that the Scottish King made full account to bee Lord of this land, watching opportunitie to bring to passe his falshood and trapterous practise: which was when our King was in France, at Turney, and Turwin: in regard of which warres,

the

the Scots vanned there was none left in England, but shepheards and ploughmen, who were not able to lead an army, having no skill in martiall affaires. In consideration of which advantage, hee invaded the Countrey, boasting of victorie before hee had wonne: which was no small griefe to Queene Margaret his wife, who was eldest Sister to our noble King. Wherefore in disgrace of the Scots, and in remembrance of the famous atchieued victorie, the Commons of England made this Song: which to this day is not forgotten of many.

THE SONG.

King *Iamie* had made a vowe,
Keepe it well if hee may:
That he will be at lovely *London*,
vpon Saint *Iames* his day.

Vpon Saint *Iames* day at noon,
at faire *London* will I bee;
And all the Lords in merrie *Scotland*,
they shall dine there with me.

Then bespoke good Queene *Margaret*,
the teares fell from her eye:
Leaue off these warres most noble King,
keepe your fidelitie.

The water runnes swift and wondrous deepe,
from bottome vnto the brimme:
My brother *Henry* hath men good enough,
England is hard to winne.

Away quoth he with this silly foole,
in prison fast let her lie:
For she is come of the English bloud,
and for these words she shall dye.

With that bespake Lord *Thomas Howard*,
The Queenes Chamberlaine that day:
If that you put Queene *Margaret* to death,
Scotland shall rue it alway.

Then in a rage King *Iamie* did say,
away with this foolish Mome:
He shall be hanged, and the other bee burned,
so soone as I come home.

At *Floden Field* the Scots came in,
which made our English men faine:
At *Bramston-greene* this battaile was seene;
there was King *Iamie* slaine.

Then presently the Scots did flie,
their Cannons they left behinde:
Their Ensignes gay were woon all away,
our Souldiers did beate them blinde.

To tel you plaine, twelue thousand were slaine,
that to the fight did stand:
And many prisoners tooke that day,
the best in all *Scotland*.

That day made many a fatherlesse child,
and many a Widow poore:
And many a Scottish gay lady,
sate weeping in her bowre.

Iacke with a feather was lapt all in leather,
His boastings were all in vaine:
He had such a chance with a new morrice dance,
He neuer went home againe.

FINIS.

# of Iacke of Newberie.

Chap. III.

How *Iack* of *Newberie* went to receiue the King, as hee went a progresse into Barkeshire: and how hee made him a banquet in his owne house.

About the tenth yeare of ỹ kings reign, his Grace made his progresse into Barkshire, against which time Iacke of Newberie cloathed 30. tall fellowes, being his household seruants, in blewe coates, faced with Sarcenet, euerie one hauing a good sword & buckler on his shoulder, himselfe in a plaine russet coate, a paire of white kersie breeches, without welt or gard, and stockings of the same peece sowed to his slops, which had a great codpeece, wherein hee stucke his pinnes: who knowing the King would come ouer a certaine meadow neer adioyning to the Towne, got himselfe thither with all his men; and repairing to a certaine Ant-hill, which was in the field, tooke vp his seate there, causing his men to stand round about the same with their swords drawne.

The King comming neere the place with the rest of his Nobilitie, and seeing them stand with their drawne weapons, sent to know the cause. Garret King at armes was the Messenger, who spake in this sort. Good fellowes, the Kings maiestie would know to what end you stand heere with your swords and bucklers prepared to fight. With that, Iacke of Newberie started vp and made this answere. Herrold (quoth he) returne to his Highnesse, it is poore Iacke of Newberie, who beeing scant Marquesse of a mole hill, is chosen Prince of Ants, and heere I stand with my weapons and Guard about mee, to defend and keep these my poore and painefull subiects from the force of the idle Butterflyes, their sworne enemies, least they should disturbe this quiet Common wealth, who this Sommer season are making their winters prouision.

The Messenger returning, told his Grace that it was one Iacke of Newbery that stoode there with his men about him to guard (as they say) a company of Ants, from the furious wrath of the Prince of Butterflies. With this newes the King heartily laught, saying: Indeede it is no marvel hee stand so well prepared, considering what a terrible tyrant he hath to deale withall. Certainly my Lords (quoth hee) this seemes to bee a pleasant fellow, and therefore we will send to talke with him.

The Messenger being sent, told Iack he must come speake with the King. Mary quoth hee, his Grace hath a horse, and I am on foote, therefore will him to come to mee: besides that, while I am away, our enemies might come and put my people in hazard as the Scots did England, while our King was in France. How dares the Lambe bee so bolde with the Lyon, quoth the Herald? Why quoth hee, if there bee a Lyon in the field, here is never a corke to feare him: and tell his Majestie, hee might thinke me a very bad Gouernour that would walke aside upon pleasure, and leave my people in perill. Herald (quoth hee) it is written, Hee that hath a charge must looke to it, and so tell thy Lord my King. The Message being done, the King sayd: My Lords, seeing it will bee no other, wee will ride up to the Emperour of Ants, that is so careful in his gouernment. At the Kings approach, Iack of Newbery and his seruants put up all their weapons, and with a loyall crie flung up their caps in token of victorie. Why how now my masters (quoth the King) is your wars ended? Let mee see where is the Lord Generall of this great Campe? With that, Iack of Newberie with all his seruants fell on their knees, saying: God saue the King of England, whose fight hath put our foes to flight, and brought great peace to the poore labouring people. Trust me (quoth our King) here bee pretie fellowes to fight against Butterflies: I must commend your courage, that dares withstand such mightie gyants. Most dread Soueraigne (quoth Iacke) not long agoe, in my conceit, I saw the most prouident Nation of the Ants, summoned their cheefe Peeres to a Parliament, which was

hold in the famous citie Dry Dusty, the one and thirtieth day of September: whereas, by their wisdomes, I was chosen their King; at what time also manie billes of complaint were brought in against diuers ill members in the cõmon-weale: among whome the Moule was attainted of high treason to their state, and therefore was banished for euer from their quiet Kingdome: so was the Grashopper and the Caterpiller, because they were not onely idle, but also liued vpon the labours of other men: amongst the rest, the Butterflie was very much misliked, but fewe durst say anie thing to him because of his golden apparell: who through sufferance grewe so ambitious and malspert, that the poore Ant could no sooner get an egge into her nest, but hee would haue it away, and especially against Easter, which at length was misliked. This painted Asse tooke snuffe in the nose, and assembled a great many other of his owne coate, by swintie warres to roote these painefull people out of the land, that hee himselfe might bee seated aboue them all. (These were proud Butterflies, quoth the King.) Whereupon I with my men (quoth Iacke) prepared our selues to withstand them till such time as your Maiesties royall presence put them to flight.

(Tush (said the King) thou must think that the force of flies is not great. Notwithstanding (quoth Iacke) their gaie gownes make poore men afraid. I perceiue (quoth Cardinall Wolsey) that you being King of Ants, doe carry a great grudge to the Butterflies. I, quoth Iack, wee bee as great foes, as the Fore and the Snake are friends: for the one of them being subtile, loues the other for his craft: but now I intend to be no longer a prince, because the maiestie of a King hath eclipst my glorie: so that looking like the Peacocke on my blacke feet, makes mee abase my vain glorious feathers, and humbly I yeeld vnto his Maiestie all my soueraigne rule and dignitie, both of life and goods, casting my weapons at his feete, to doe any seruice wherein his Grace shall command me. God a mercy good Iack (quoth the king) I haue often heard of thee, & this morning I mean to visite thy house.

Thus

Thus the King with great delight rode along vntill hee came to the townes end, where a great multitude of people attended, to see his Maiestie: where also Queene Katherine with all her traine met him. Thus with great reioycing of the Commons, the King and Queene passed along to this iolly Clothiers house, where the good wife of the house with threescore maidens attending on her, presented the King with a Bee hiue, most richly guilt with gold, and all the Bees therein were also of gold curiously made by Art, and out of the top of the same Hiue sprung a flourishing green tree, which bare golden Apples, and at the roots thereof lay diuers Serpents, seeking to destroy it, whom Prudence and Fortitude trode vnder their feete, holding this inscription in their hands;

Loe here presented to your Royall sight,
The figure of a flourishing Common-wealth:
Where vertuous subiects labour with delight,
And beare the drones to death which liue by stealth.
Ambition, Enuie, Treason loathsom Serpents bee,
Which seeke the downefall of this fruitfull tree.

But Lady Prudence with deep searching eye,
Their ill intended purpose doth preuent:
And noble Fortitude standing alwayes nye,
Disperst their power prepar'd with bad intent.
Thus are they foyld that mount by meanes vnmeet,
And so like slaues are troden vnder feet.

The King fauourably accepted this Embleme, and receiuing it at the womans hands, willed Cardinall Wolley to look thereon, commanding it should bee sent to Windsor Castle. This Cardinall was at that time Lord Chauncellor of England, and a wonderfull proude Prelate, by whose meanes great variance was set betwixt the King of England and the French King, the Emperour of Almaine, and diuers other Princes of Christendome, whereby the trafficke of those Merchants was vtterly forbidden, which bred a generall

woe

woe through England, especially among Clothiers: insomuch that hauing no sale for their cloath, they were faine to put away many of their people which wrought for them, as hereafter more at large shall be declared.

Then was his Maiestie brought into a great Hall, where foure long Tables stoode readie couered: and passing through that place, the King and Queene came into a faire and large Parlour hung about with goodly Tapistrie, where was a Table prepared for his Highnesse and the Quenes Grace. All the floore where the king sate, was couered with broadcloathes in stead of greene rushes: these were choice peeces of the finest wool, of an Azure colour, valued at an hundred pound a cloath, which afterward was given to his Maiestie. The king being set with the chiefest of his Councell about him, after a delicate dinner, a sumptuous Banquet was brought-in, serued all in glasse: the description whereof were too long for mee to write, and you to read. The great Hall was also filled with Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen, who were attended by no other but the seruants of the house. The Ladies of Honour and Gentlewomen of the Court were all seated in an other Parlour by themselues: at whose table the maidens of the house did waite in decent sort. The seruingmen by themselues, the pages, and foot men by themselues, vpon whom the Premises did attend most diligently. During the kings abiding in this place, there was no want of delicates: Kentish wine, Claret wine, and Sacke, was as plentifull as small Ale. Then from the highest to the lowest, they were serued in such sort, as no discontent was found anie waie, so that great commendations redounded vnto the Good-man of the house. The L. Cardinall that of late found himselfe gall'd by the Allegorie of the Ants, spake in this wise to the King. If it would please your Highnesse (quoth he) but to note the vaine glory of these Artificers, you should find no small cause of dislike in many of their actions. For an instance, the fellow of this house, her hath not stucke this day to vndoo himselfe onely to become famous by receiuing of your Maiestie: like Herostratus the Shoomaker, that burnd

ned the Temple of Diana, onely to get himselfe a name, more than for any affection hee beares to your Grace, as may well bee proued by this: Let there be but a simple Subsidie leuied vpon them for the assistance of your Highnesse Wars, or anie other weightie affaires of the Common wealth and state of the Realme, though it bee not the twentith part of their substance, they will so grudge and repine, that it is wonderfull, and like people desperate crie out, They be quite vndone. My Lord Cardinall quoth the Queene, (vnder correction of my Lord the King) I durst lay an hundred pound Iacke of Newberie was neuer of that mind, nor is not at this instant: if ye ask him, I warrant hee will say so. My selfe also had a proofe thereof at the Scottish inuasion, at what time this man, being sealed but at fiue men, brought (at his owne cost) an hundred and fiftie into the field. I would I had more such subiects saide the King, and many of so good a minde. Ho, ho Harry (quoth Will Sommers) then had not Empson and Dudley beene chronicled for knaues, or sent to the Tower for treason. But then they had not knowne the paine of imprisonment quoth our King, who with their subtiltie grieued many others. But their subtiltie was such that it broke their necks quoth Will Sommers. Whereat the King and Queen laughing heartily, rose from the Table. By which time, Iacke of Newberie had caused all his folkes to goe to their worke, that his Grace and all the Nobilitie might see it, so indeed the Queene had requested. Then came his Highnesse where hee saw an hundred Loomes standing in one roome, and two men working in euery one, who pleasantly sung in this sort.

The Weauers Song.

WHen *Hercules* did vse to spin,
and *Pallas* wrought vpon the Loome,
Our Trade to flourish did begin,
While Conscience went not selling Broome.
Then loue and friendship did agree,
To keepe the band of amitie.

When

When Princes ſonnes kept ſheep in field,
and Queenes made cakes of wheaten flower,
Then men to lucre did not yeeld,
which brought good cheare in euery bower.
Then loue and friendſhip did agree,
To hold the bands of amitie.

But when that Giants huge and hie,
did fight with ſpeares like Weauers beames,
Then they in Iron beds did lie,
and brought poore men to hard extreames.
Yet loue and friendſhip did agree,
To hold the bands of amitie.

Then *Dauid* tooke his Sling and ſtone,
not fearing great *Golias* ſtrength:
He pearc't his braines and broke the bone,
though he were fifty foote of length.
For loue and friendſhip &c.

But while the Greekes beſieged *Troy*,
Penelope apace did ſpin,
And Weauers wrought with mickle ioy,
though little gaines were comming in.
For loue and friendſhip, &c.

Had *Helen* then ſate carding wooll
(whoſe beautious face did breed ſuch ſtrife)
Shee had not been ſir *Paris* trull,
nor cauſed ſo many loſe their life.
Yet we by loue did ſtill agree, &c.

Or had King *Priams* wanton ſonne,
beene making quils with ſweet content,
He had nor then his friends vndone,
when he to *Greece* a gadding went.
For loue and friendſhip did agree, &c.

The Cedar trees indure more stormes,
than little shrubs, that sprout on hie:
The Weauers liue more voyd of harmes,
Than Princes of great dignitie,
While loue and friendship doth agree, &c.

The Shepheard sitting in the field,
doth tune his pipe with hearts delight:
When Princes watch with speare and shield,
the poore man soundly sleepes all night.
While loue and friendship doth agree, &c.

Yet this by proofe is daily tride,
for Gods good gifts wee are ingrate:
And no man through the World so wide,
liues well contented with his state.
No loue and friendship wee can see,
To hold the bands of amitie.

Well sung good fellowes, said our King: Light hearts & merrie mindes liue long without gray haires. But (quoth Will Sommers) seldome without red noses. Well, said the King, there is a hun[illegible] angels to make good chear withal: & looke that euery ye[illegible] once you make a feast among your selues, and frankly (euery peare) I giue you leaue to fetch foure Bucks out of Dunnington parke, without any mans let or controulement. O I beseech your Grace (quoth Will Sommers) let it be with a condition. What is that, said our King? My Liege, quoth hee, that although the Keeper will haue the skins, that they may giue their wiues the hornes. Goe to, said the Queene, thy head is fuller of knauerie, then thy purse is of crownes.

The poore workemen humbly thanked his Maiestie for his bountifull liberalitie: and euer since it hath beene a custome among the Weauers, euery peare presently after Bartholomewtide, in remembrance of the Kings fauor to meete together, and make a merrie feast. His Maiestie came next among

among the ſpinners, and carders, who were merrily a worꝛking: whereat Will Sommers fell into a great laughter. What aples the foole to laugh, ſayd the King? Marrie (quoth Will Sommers) to ſee theſe maidens get their living, as buls doe eate their meate. How is that, ſaid the Queen? By going ſtill backward quoth Will Sommers: and I will laie a wager, that they that practiſe ſo well being maides to goe backward, will quickly learne ere long to fall backward.

But ſirra ſaid the Cardinall, thou didſt fall forward when thou brakeſt thy face in maiſter Kingſmiles cellar. But you my Lord ſate forward (quoth Will Sommers) when you ſate in the ſtockes at Sir Amias Paulets. Whereat there was greater laughing than before. The King and Queene and Nobilitie heedfully beheld theſe Women, who for the moſt part were very faire and comly creatures, and were all attired alike from top to toe. Then (after due reuerence) the maidens in dulcet manner chaunted out this ſong, two of them ſinging the Dittie, and all the reſt bearing the burden.

The Maidens Song.

IT was a Knight in *Scotland* borne,
follow my loue, leape ouer the ſtrand:
Was taken priſoner and left forlorne,
euen by the good Earle of *Northumberland.*

Then was he caſt in priſon ſtrong,
follow my loue, leape ouer the ſtrand:
Where he could not walke nor lie along,
euen by the good Earle of *Northumberland.*

And as in ſorrow thus he lay,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand;
The Earles ſweete Daughter walkt that way,
and ſhe the faire flower of *Northumberland.*

And paſsing by like an Angell bright,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:

This Prisoner had of her a sight,
and she the faire flower of *Northumberland.*

And loud to her this Knight did crie,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
The salt teares standing in his eye,
and she the faire flower of *Northumberland.*

Faire Lady he sayd, take pitty on me,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
And let me not in prison dye,
and you the faire flower of *Northumberland.*

Faire Sir how should I take pittie on thee,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
Thou being a foe to our Country,
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland?*

Faire Lady I am no foe he said,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
Through thy sweet loue here was I stayd,
for thee the faire flower of *Northumberland.*

Why shouldst thou come here for loue of me,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand;
Having wife and Children in thy Countrie,
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland?*

I sweare by the blessed Trinitie,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
I haue no wife nor children I,
nor dwelling at home in merry *Scotland.*

If curteously you will set me free,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
I vow that I will marrie thee,
so soone as I come in faire *Scotland.*

Thou

Thou ſhalt be a Lady of Caſtles and Towers:
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
And ſit like a Queene in princely bowers,
when I am at home in faire *Scotland*.

Then parted hence this Lady gay,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
And got her fathers ring away,
to helpe this ſad Knight into faire *Scotland*.

Likewiſe much gold ſhe got by ſleight,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
And all to helpe this forlorne Knight
to wend from her father to faire *Scotland*.

Two gallant ſteedes both good and able,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
She likewiſe tooke out of the ſtable,
to ride with this Knight into faire *Scotland*.

And to the Iaylor ſhe ſent this ring,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
The Knight from priſon forth to bring,
to wend with her into faire *Scotland*.

This token ſet the priſoner free,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
Who ſtraight went to this faire Lady,
to wend with her into faire *Scotland*.

A gallant ſteed he did beſtride,
follow my loue, come ouer the the ſtrand:
And with the Lady away did ride,
and ſhe the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

They roade till they came to a water cleare,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:

Good sir how should I follow you here,
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland*?

The water is rough and wonderfull deepe,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
And on my saddle I shall not keep,
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

Feare not the foord faire Lady quoth he,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
For long I cannot stay for thee:
and thou the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

The Lady prickt her wanton steed,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
And ouer the Riuer swom with speede,
and she the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

From top to toe all wet was shee,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
This haue I done for loue of thee,
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

Thus rode shee all one winters night,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
Till *Edenborow* they saw in sight,
the chiefest towne in all *Scotland*.

Now chuse (quoth he) thou wanton flower,
follow my loue, come ouer the the strand:
Where thou wilt be my paramour,
or get thee home to *Northumberland*.

For I haue wife and children fiue,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:
In *Edenborow* they be aliue,
then get thee home to faire *England*.

# of Iacke of Newberie.

Thi's fauour ſhalt thou haue to boote,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
Ile haue thy horſe, goe thou on foote,
goe get thee home to *Northumberland.*

O falſe and faithleſſe Knight quoth ſhee,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand;
And canſt thou deale ſo bad with me,
and I the faire flowre of *Northumberland.*

Diſhonour not a Ladies name,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
But draw thy ſword and end my ſhame,
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland.*

He tooke her from her ſtately ſteed,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
And left her there in extreame need,
and ſhe the faire flower of *Northumberland.*

Then ſate ſhe downe full heauily,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
At length two Knights came riding by,
two gallant Knights of faire *England.*

Shee fell downe humbly on her knee,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
Saying curteous Knights take pitty on mee,
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland.*

I haue offended my father deere,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:
And by a falſe Knight that brought me heere,
from the good Earle of *Northumberland.*

They tooke her vp behind them then,
follow my loue, come ouer the ſtrand:

And brought her to her Fathers agen,
and he the good Earle of *Northumberland.*

All you faire Maidens be warned by me,
follow my loue, come ouer the strand,
Scots were neuer true, nor neuer will be,
To Lord, to Lady, nor faire *England.*

FINIS.

After the Kings Maiestie and the Queene had heard this song sweetely sung by them, hee cast them a great reward: and so departing thence, went to the Falling mills, a Dye-house, where a great many also were hard at worke: and his Maiesty perceiuing what a great number of people were by this one man set on worke, both admired, and commended him, saying further, that no Trade in all the Land was so much to bee cherished and maintained as this, which quoth he may well be called the life of the poor. And as the King returned from this place with intent to take horse and depart, there met him a great many of children in garments of white silke fringed with gold, their heads crowned with golden Bales, and about their armes each one had a scarfe of green sarcenet fast tyed, in their hands they bore siluer Bowes, and vnder their girdles golden arrowes.

The formost of them represented Diana, goddesse of Chastitie, who was attended vpon by a traine of beautifull Nymphes, and they presented to the King foure prisoners: The first was a sterne and grisly Woman, carrying a frowning countenance: and her forehead full of wrinkles, her haire as blacke as pitch; and her garments all bloudie, a greate sworde shee had in her hand all stayned with purple gore: they called her name Bellona, Goddesse of warres, who had three daughters: the first of them was a tall Woman, so leane and ill fauoured, that her cheek bones were ready to start out of the skinne, of a pale and deadly colour, her eyes sunke into her head: her legges so feeble, that they could scantly

scantly carrie the body, all along her armes & hands through the skin you might tell the sinowes, joynts, and bones: her teeth were very strong and sharpe withall: shee was so greedy that shee was readie with her teeth to teare the skin from her owne armes: her attyre was black, and all torne and ragged, shee went bare footed and her name was Famine. The second was a strong & lustie Woman, with a looke pittilesse and unmercifull countenance: her garments were all made of Iron & Steele, and she carried in her hand a naked weapon and shee was called the Sword. The third was also a cruell creature, her eyes did sparkle like burning coales: her hayre was like a flame: and her garments like burning brasse: shee was so hot that none could stand neere her, and they called her name Fyre.

After this they retyred againe, and brought unto his Highnesse two other Personages, their countenaunce was Princely and amiable, their attyre most rich and sumptuous: The one carried in his hand a golden trumpet, and the other a Palmetree, and these were called Fame and Victory, whom the goddesse of Chastitie charged to waite upon this famous Prince for ever. This done, each child after other with due reverence gaue unto his Maiestie a sweete smelling Gilliflower, after the manner of the Persians, offering something in token of loyalty and obedience. The King and Queene beholding the sweet fauour and countenance of these children, demaunded of Iack of Newbery whose children they were? Who answered: It shall please your Highnesse to understand, that these are the children of poore people: that do get their living by picking of woll, having scant a good meale once in a weeke. With that the King began to tell his Gilliflowers, whereby hee found that there was 96. children. Certainely (said the Queene) I perceiue God giues as faire children to the poore as to the rich, and fairer manie times: and though their apparell and keeping bee but simple, the blessing of God doth cherish them. Therefore (said the Queene) I will request to haue two of them to waite in my Chamber. Faire Katherine (said the King) you and I haue

prompt in one opinion, thinking these children fitter for the Court than the Countrey: whereupon he made choyce of a dozen more: foure to be ordained to be Pages to his royall person, and the rest bee sent to Universities, allotting to every one a Gentlemans living. Diuers of the Noble men did in like sort entertaine some of those children into their services, so that (in the end) not one was left to picke wooll, but were all so prouided for, that their Parents neuer needed to care for them: and God so blessed them, that each of them came to be men of great account and authority in the land, whose posterities remaine to this day worshipfull and famous. The King, Queene, and Nobles being ready to depart, after great thankes and gifts giuen to Iack of Newbery, his Maiestie would haue made him Knight, but hee meekely refused it, saying: I beseech your Grace let me liue a poore Clothier among my people, in whose maintenance I take more felicity, then in all the vaine titles of Gentilitie: for these are the labouring Ants whom I seeke to defend, and these bee the Bees which I keepe: who labour in this life, not for our selues, but for the glory of God, and to do seruice to our dread Soueraigne. My knighthood need be no hinderance of thy faculty, quoth the King. O my dread Soueraigne said Iacke, honour and worship may be compared to the Lake of Lethe, which makes men forget themselues that taste thereof: and to the end I may still keepe in minde from when I came, and what I am, I beseech your Grace let mee rest in my russet coat a poore Clothier to my dying day. Seeing then (said the King) that a mans minde is a Kingdome to himselfe, I will leaue thee to the riches of thy owne content, and so farewell. The Queenes Maiesty taking her leaue of the good wife with a Princely kisse: gaue her in token of remembrance a most precious and rich Diamond set in gold, about the which was also curiously set fiue Rubies, and fiue Emeralds in one peece, valued at nine hundred Marks: and so her Grace departed. But in this meane space Will Sommers kept company among the maids, and betooke himselfe to spinning as they did, which among them

was

was bid as a forfeit of a gallon of wine: but William by no meanes would pay it, except they would take it out in kisses, rating every kisse at a farthing. This paiment we refuse for two causes quoth the Maidens: the one, for that we esteem not kisses at so base a rate: and the other, because in so doing we should giue as much as you.

Chap. IIII.

How the maidens serued *Will Sommers* for his sawsinesse.

The maidens consented together, seeing Will Sommers was so busie both with their worke, and in his words, and would not pay his forfeiture, to serue him as he serued: first therefore they bound him hand and foote, and set him vpright against a posse, tying him thereto, which he tooke in ill part, notwithstanding he could not resist them: and because hee let his tongue runne at randome, they set a faire gagge in his mouth, such a one as he could not for his life put away: so that he stood as one gaping for winde. Then one of them got a couple of dogs droppings, and putting them in a bagge, laide them in soke in a bason of water, while the rest turned down the collar of his Jerkin, and put an hose cloath about his necke in stead of a fine towell: then came the other maide with a bason and water in the same, and with the perfume in the pudding-bagge, clapt him about the face and lips, till he looked like a tawne Moore, & with her hand washt him very orderly: the smell being somwhat strong, Will could by no meanes abide it, and for want of other language, cryed Ah ha ha ha. Faine hee would haue spet, and could not, so that he was faine to swallow down such liquor as hee never tasted the like. When hee had a pretty while been washed in this sort, at the length he crouch't downe vpon his knees, yeelding himselfe to their fauor: which the maidens perceiuing, pulled the gag out of his mouth. He had no sooner the liberty of his tongue, but that he curst and swore like a diuel: the maides that could scant stand for laughing, at

last askt how he liked his washing? Washing, quoth hee? I was neuer thus wash'd, nor euer met with such Barbers since I was borne: let mee goe quoth hee, and I will giue you whatsoeuer you will demand: wherewith hee cast them an English Crowne. Nay quoth one of the maides, you are yet but washt, but we will shaue you ere yee goe. Sweete Maides quoth hee pardon my shauing, let it suffice that you haue washt mee: if I haue done a trespasse to your trade, forgiue it mee, and I will neuer hereafter offend you. Tush said the Maides you haue made our wheeles cast their bands and broken the teeth of our cards in such sort, as the offence may not bee remitted without great penance. As for your gold wee regarde it not: therefore as you are perfumed fit for the dogges, so we enioine you this night to serue all our hogs, which penance if you will sweare with all speede to performe, wee will let you loose. O quoth Will, the huge Elephant was neuer more fearefull of the silly sheepe, than I am of your displeasures: therefore let mee loose and I will doo it with all diligence. Then they vnbound him, and brought him among a great companie of Swyne, which when Will had well viewed ouer, hee drawe out of the yard all the sowes: why how now quoth the maides, what meane you by this? Mary quoth Will, these be all sowes, and my pennance is but to serue the hogs. It is true quoth they: haue you ouertaken vs in this sort? Well looke there bee not one hog vnserued wee would aduise you. Will Sommers stript vp his sleeues very orderly, and clapt an apron about his motley hosen, and taking a paile serued the hogs handsomely. When he had giuen them all meate, he sayd thus:

My taske is duly done,
My libertie is won:
The hogs haue eate their crabs.
Therefore farewell yee drabs.

Nay soft friend quoth they, the veriest hog of all hath yet had nothing. Where the diuell is he saith Will that I see him not? Wrapt in a motley Ierkin quoth they, take thy selfe by the nose, and thou shalt catch him by the snout. I was neuer so

verie

berie a hog quoth hee, I would alway ſpare from my own belllie to giue to a Woman. If thou do not (ſay they) eate (like the prodigall Chiloe) with thy fellow hogs, wee will ſo ſhaue thee, as thou ſhalt deerely repent thy diſobedience. He ſeeing no remedie, committed himſelfe to their mercie: and ſo they let him goe. When hee came to the Court, hee ſhewed to the King al his aduenture among the Weauers maidens, wherat the King and Queene laughed heartily.

CHAP. V.

Of the pictures which *Iacke* of *Newbery* had in his houſe, whereby hee encouraged his ſeruants to ſeeke for fame and dignitie.

IN a faire large Parlour which was wainſcotted about, Iacke of Newbery had 15. faire Pictures hanging, which were couered with curtaines of green ſilke, fringed with gold, which hee would often ſhew to his friends and ſeruants. In the firſt was the picture of a ſheepheard before whom kneeled a great King named Viriat, who ſometime gouerned the people of Portugal. See heere quoth Iacke, the father a Shepheard, the ſonne a Soueraigne. This man ruled in Portugall, and made great warres againſt the Romanes, and after that inuaded Spaine, yet in the end was traiterouſly ſlaine.

The next was the Portraiture of Agathocles, which for his ſurpaſſing wiſedome and manhood, was created King of Sicilia, and maintained battaile againſt the people of Carthage. His Father was a poore Potter, before whom he alſo kneeled. And it was the vſe of this King, that whenſoeuer he made a banquet, he would haue aſwell veſſels of earth as of golde ſet vpon the Table, to the intent hee might alwaies beare in mind the place of his beginning, his Fathers houſe and family.

The 3. was the picture of Iphicrates an Athenian borne, who banquiſhed the Lacedemonians in plaine and open battaile. This then was Captaine generall to Artaxerxes,

King

King of Persia, whose father was notwithstanding a Cobler, and there likewise pictured. Eumenes was also a famous Captaine to Alexander the great, whose father was no other then a Carter.

The fourth was the similitude of Aelius Pertinax, sometime Emperor of Rome, yet was his father but a Weauer; and afterward to giue example to others of lowe condition, to beare minds of worthy men, he caused the shop to be beautified with marble curiously cut, wherein his father before him was wont to get his liuing.

The fift was the picture of Diocletian, that so much adorned Rome with his magnificall and triumphant victories.

This was a most famous Emperour, although no other than the sonne of a Book-binder. Valentinian stood the next, painted most artificially: who also was crowned Emperor, and was but the sonne of a poore Rope-maker, as in the same picture was expressed, where his father was painted by him vsing his trade.

The seuenth was the Emperor Probus, whose father being a Gardener, was pictured by him holding a spade.

The eight picture was of Marcus Aurelius, whom euery age honoureth, he was so wise and prudent an Emperour: yet was he but a cloth-weauers sonne.

The ninth was the portraiture of the valiant Emperour Maximinus, the son of a Black-smith, who was there painted as he was wont to worke at the Anuil.

In the tenth table was painted the Emperour Gabienus, who at the first was but a poore shepheard.

Next to this picture was placed the pictures of two Popes of Rome, whose wisedome and learning aduanced them to that dignitie. The first was the liuely counterfeit of Pope Iohn the twenty two, whose father was a Shoomaker: he being elected Pope, increased their rents and patrimonie greatly.

The other was the picture of Pope Sextus the fourth of that name, being a poore Mariners sonne.

The thirteenth picture was of Lamusius, King of Lombardie,

bardie, who was no better then the ſon of a common ſtrumpet, being painted like a naked childe walking in water, and taking hold of the point of a Launce, by the which hee hung faſt, and ſaued himſelfe. The reaſon whereof is this. After his leawde mother was deliuered of him, ſhee vnnaturally threw him into a deepe ſtinking ditch, wherein was ſome water. By hap. King Agilmond paſſed that way, and found this childe almoſt drowned, who moouing him ſomewhat with the point of his Launce, the better to perceiue what hee was, the child (though newly borne) took hold thereof with one of his prætty hands, not ſuffering it to ſlide or ſlip away againe: which thing the prince conſidering, beeing amazed at the ſtrange force of this young little infant, cauſed it to bee taken vp, and carefully to be foſtered, and becauſe the place where hee found it, was called Lama, he named the child Lamuſius: who after grew to be ſo braue a man, and ſo much honoured of Fortune, that in the end hee was crowned King of the Lumbards, who liued there in honour, and in his ſucceſſion after him, euen vnto the time of the vnfortunate King Albouina, when all came to ruine, ſubuerſion and deſtruction.

In the fourteenth picture, Primiſlas King of Bohemia, was moſt artificially drawne, before whom there ſtood an horſe without bridle or ſaddle, in a field where husbandmen were at plough. The cauſe why this King was thus painted (quoth Iack) was this. At that time the King of the Bohemians died without iſſue, and great ſtrife being among the Nobility for a new King, at length they all conſented that a horſe ſhould be let into the field, without bridle or ſaddle, hauing all determined with a moſt aſſured purpoſe to make him their King, before whom this horſe reſted: At what time it came to paſſe, that the horſe firſt ſtayed himſelfe before this Primiſlas, being a ſimple creature, who was then buſie driuing the plough: they preſently made him their Soueraigne, who ordered himſelfe and his Kingdome very wiſely. Hee ordained many good Lawes, he compaſſed the Citty of Prague with ſtrong walles, beſides many other

things, meriting perpetuall laud and commendations.

The fifteenth was the picture of Theophrastus, a Philosopher, a counsellor of Kings, and companion of Nobles, who was but sonne of a Taylor. Seeing then my good seruants, that these men haue been aduanced to high estate and Princely dignities by wisedome, learning, and diligence, I would wish you to imitate the like vertues, that you might attaine the like honors: for which if you doth know what good fortune God hath in store for you: there is none of you so poorly born, but that men of baser birth haue come to great honors: the idle hand shall euer goe in a ragged garment, and the slothfull line in reproach: but such as do leade a vertuous life, and gouerne themselues discreetely, shall of the best bee esteemed, and spend his dayes in credit.

Chap. VI.

How all the Clothiers in England ioyned together, and with one consent complayned to the King of their great hinderance sustayned for want of traffique into other Countries, whereupon they could get no sale for their Cloath.

By meanes of the warres our King had with other countries, many Merchaunt strangers were prohibited for comming to England, and also our owne Merchants (in like sort) were forbidden to haue dealing with France, or the Low-countries: by meanes whereof, the Clothiers had most of their cloth lying on their hands, and that which they sold was at so low a rate, that money scarcely paide for the woll, and workemanship. Whereupon they thought to ease themselues by abating the poore workemens wages, and when that did not preuaile they turned away their people; Weauers, Shearemen, Spinners & Carders: so that where there was a hundred looms kept in one towne, there was scant 50. and hee that kept twenty, put downe ten. Many a poore man (for want of worke) was hereby vndone with his wife and children, and it made many a poore widow to sit with an

hungry

hungry belly: This bred great woe in most places in England. In the end Iack of Newbery intended (in the behalfe of the poore) to make a supplication to the King: and to the end he might doe it the more effectually, he sent Letters to all the chiefe clothing townes in England to this effect.

The Letter.

WElbeloued friends and brethren, hauing a taste of the generall griefe, and feeling (in some measure) the extremitie of these times, I fell into consideration by what meane we might best expell these sorrowes, and recouer our former commodity. When I had well thought thereon, I found that nothing was more needfull herein then a faithfull vnity among our selues. This sore of necessity can no way be cured but by concord: for like as the flame consumes the candle, so men through discorde waste themselues. The poore hate the rich, because they will not set them on worke: and the rich hate the poore, because they seeme burdenous: so both are offended for want of gaine. When Belinus and Brennus were at strife, the Queene their mother in their greatest furie perswaded them to peace, by vrging her conception of them in one wombe, and mutuall cherishing of them from their tender yeeres: so let our Art of Clothing, which like a kinde mother hath cherished vs with the excellency of her secrets, perswade vs to an vnity. Though our occupation be decayed, let vs not deale with it as men doe by their old shoes, which after they haue long borne them out of the mire, doe in the end fling them on the dunghill: or as the husbandman doth by his Bees, who for their honey burnes them. Deare friends, consider that our Trade will maintaine vs, if wee will vphold it, and there is nothing base, but that which is basely vsed. Assemble therefore your selues together, and in euery Town tell the number of those that haue their liuing by meanes of this Trade: note it in a Bill, and send it to me: and because suits in Court are like winter nights long and wearisome, let there be in each place a weekely collection made to defray charges: for I tell

you. Noble mens Secretaries and cunning Lawyers haue slow tongues and deafe eares: which must vally bee nointed with the sweete oyle of Angels Then let two honest discreete men bee chosen, and sent out of euery Towne to meet me at Blackwell hall in London, on All Saints Eue, and then wee will present our humble petition to the King: Thus I bid you heartily farewell.

Copies of this Letter being sealed, they were sent to all the clothing Townes of England, and Weauers both of Linnen and Wollen gladly receiued them: so that when all the Bills were brought together, there were found of the Clothiers, and those they maintained, threescore thousand & six hundred persons. Moreouer euery clothing Towne, sending vp two men to London, they were found to bee an hundred and tweiue persons, who in very humble sort fell downe before his Maiesty, walking in S. Iames his Parke, and deliuered vnto him their petition. The King presently perusing it, asked if they were all Clothiers? who answered (as it were one man) in this sort: Wee are (most gracious King) all poore Clothiers, and your Maiesties faithfull subiects. My Lords, (quoth the King, let these mens complaint bee throughly lookt vnto, and their griefe redressed: for I account them in the number of the best Common wealths men. As the Clergie for the Soule, the Souldier for defence of his Countrie, the Lawyer to execute iustice, the husbandman to feede the belly: So is the skilfull Clothier no lesse necessary for the clothing of the backe, whom wee may reckon among the chiefe Yeomen of our Land: and as the Crystall sight of the eye is tenderly to bee kept from harmes, because it giues to the whole body light; so is the clothiers, whose cunning hand prouides garments to defend our naked parts from the winters nipping frost. Many more reasons there are which may moone vs to redresse their griefes, but let it suffice that I command to haue it done. Wich that his grace deliuered the petition to the Lord Chauncellor, and all the Clothiers cried, God saue the King. But as the King was ready to depart, hee suddenly turned about, saying I remem-

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ber there is one Iack of Newbery, I muse hee had not his hand in this businesse, who profest himselfe to bee a defender of true labourers. Then said the Duke of Sommerset: It may bee his purse is answerable for his person. Nay (quoth the Lord Cardinall) all his treasure is little enough to maintaine wars against the Butterflies. With that Iack shewed himselfe vnto the King, and priuately told his Grace of their griefe anew. To whom his Maiesty said: Giue thy attendance at the Councell Chamber, where thou shalt receiue an answere to thy content. And so his highnes departed. Finally, it was agreed that the Marchants should freely traffique one with another: and that proclamation thereof shold bee made as well on the other side of the sea, as in our Land, but it was long before this was effected, by reason the Cardinall beeing Lord Chancellor, put off the matter from time to time. And because the Clothiers thought it best not to depart before it was ended, they gaue their daily attendance at the Cardinals house: but spent many dayes to no purpose. Sometimes they were answered, my Lord was busie: and could not bee spoke withall, or else hee was asleepe, and they durst not wake him: or at his study, and they would not disturbe him: or at his prayers, and they durst not displease him: and still one thing or other stood in the way to hinder them. At last, Patch the Cardinals foole, beeing (by their often repaire thither) well acquainted with the Clothiers, came vnto them and saide: what, haue you not spoken with my Lord yet? No truly (quoth they) we heare say he is busy and wee stay till his Grace bee at leasure. It is true, saide Patch: and with that in all hast hee went out of the hall, and at last came in againe with a great bundle of straw on his back. Why how now Patch (quoth the Gentlemen) what wilt thou doe with that straw? Mary (quoth hee) I will put it vnder these honest mens feete, least they should freeze ere they finde my Lord at leisure. This made them all to laugh, and caused Patch to cary away his straw againe. Well, well (quoth hee) if it cost you a groats worth of faggots at night, blame not mee. Trust me (said Iack of Newbery) if my Lord

Cardinals father had beene no hastier in killing of Calues then he is in dispatching of poore mens sutes, I doubt he had neuer worne a Myter. Thus he spake betwixt themselues softly: but yet not so softly but that hee was ouerheard by a flattering fellow that stood by, who made it knowne to some of the Gentlemen, and they straight certified the Cardinall thereof.

The Cardinall (who was of a very high spirit, and a lofty aspiring minde) was maruailously displeased at Iack of Newbery: wherefore in his rage hee commanded and sent the Clothiers all to prison, because the one of them should not sue for the others releasement. Foure dayes lay these men in the Marshalsey, till at last they made their humble Petition to the King for their release: but some of the Cardinals friends kept it from the Kings sight. Notwithstanding the Duke of Sommerset knowing thereof, spake with the Lord Cardinall about the matter, wishing he should speedily release them, least it bred him some displeasure: for you may perceiue (quoth the Duke) how highly the King esteemes men of that faculty. Sir (quoth the Cardinall) I doubt not but to answere their imprisonment well enough, being perswaded that none would haue giuen mee such a quip but an heretique: and I dare warrant you, were this Iack of Newbery well examined, hee would be found to bee infected with Luthers spirit, against whom our King hath of late written a most learned booke; in respect whereof the Popes holinesse hath entituled his Maiesty, Defender of the Faith: therefore I tell you such fellowes are fitter to bee faggots for fire, then Fathers of families: notwithstanding (at your Graces request) I will release them. Accordingly the Cardinall sent for the Clothiers before him to White-hall, his new built house by Westminster, and there bestowing his blessing vpon them, said: Though you haue offended mee I pardon you: for as Steuen forgaue his enemies that stoned him, and our Sauiour those sinfull men that crucified him, so doe I forgiue you that high trespasse committed in disgrace of my birth: for herein do men come neerest vnto God, in shewing

mercy

mercy & compaſſion. But ſee hereafter you offend no more. Touching your ſuite it is granted, and to morrow ſhall bee publiſhed through London. This being ſaid, they departed: and according to the Cardinalls words, their buſineſſe was ended. The Stil-yard Marchants ioyfull thereof, made the Clothiers a great banquet. After which each man departed home, carying tidings of their good ſucceſſe: ſo that in ſhort ſpace, Clothing againe was very good, and poore men as well ſet on worke as before.

CHAP. VII.

How a yong Italian Marchant comming to *Iack* of *Newberies* houſe, was greatly enamoured of one of his maidens, and how he was ſerued.

AMong other ſeruants which Iack of Newbery kept, there were in his houſe threeſcore maydens, which euery Sunday waited on his Wife to Church and home againe, who had diuers offices. Among other, two were appointed to keepe the beames and waights, to waighe out wooll to the Carders and Spinners, and to receiue it in againe by waight: one of them was a comely mayden, ſayre and louely, borne of wealthy parents, and brought vp in good qualities, her name was Ione: ſo it was that a yong wealthie Italian Marchant, comming oft from London thither to bargaine for cloth (for at that time clothiers moſt commonly had their cloth beſpoken, and halfe payd for aforehand.) This Maſter Benedicke fell greatly enamoured of this mayden, and therefore offered much courteſie to her, beſtowing many gifts on her, which ſhe receiued thankefully: and albeit his outward countenance ſhewed his inward affection, yet Ione would take no knowledge thereof. Yea the day ſometime, would he ſit by her, as ſhe was waighing wooll, often ſighing and ſobbing to himſelfe, yet ſaying nothing, as if hee had beene tongueleſſe, like the men of Coromandæ; and the loather to ſpeake, for that hee could ſpeake

but

but bad english. Ione on the other side that well perceiued his passions, did as it were triumph ouer him, as one that were bondslaue to her beauty: and although shee knew well enough before that shee was faire; yet did she neuer so highly esteeme of her selfe as at this present: so that when she heard him eyther sigh, sob, or groane, shee would turne her face in a carelesse sort, as if shee had beene borne (like the women of Taprobana) without eares. When master Benedick saw shee made no reckoning of his sorrows, at length he blabbered out his broken English, and spoke to her in this sort: Mettressa Ione, be mee tra and fa, mee loue you wod all mine heart, and if you no shall loue mee againe, mee know me shall die, sweete Mettressa loue a mee; and by my fa and tra you shall lack nothing: First me will giue you de silke for make you a Frog. Second de fin Camree for make you ruffes, and de turd shall be for make fin hankercher, for wipe your nose. She mistaking his speech began to be cholerick, wishing him to keepe that bodkin to pick his teeth. Yo, yo Mettressa Ione (quoth he) be Got, you are angry. Oh Mettressa Ione be not chafe with your friene for noting. Good sir (quoth shee) keepe your friendship for them that care for it and fire your loue on those that can like your as for mee I tell you plaine, I am not minded to marry. Otis no matter for marrie, if you will come to my chamber, beshit my bed, and let me kisse you. The maide though she were very much displeased, yet at these words shee could not forbeare laughing for her life. Ahah, Mettressa Ione, mee is very glad to see you merry, hould Mettressa Ione, holde your hand I say, and there is foure crowne because you laugh on mee. I pray you Sir, keepe your crowns, for I neede them not. Yes be Got you shall haue them Mettressa Ione, to keepe in box for you. She that could not well vnderstand his broken language, mistook his meaning in many things, & therfore wild him not to trouble her any more: Notwithstanding such was his loue toward her, that he could not forbeare her company, but made many iournies thither for her sake: and as a certain spring in Arcadia, makes men to starue that drinke of it: so

did

did poore Bennedicke feeding his fancie on her beautie: for when he was in London, he did nothing but sorrow, wishing he had wings like the monsters of Tartaria that he might fly to and fro at his pleasure. When any of his friends did tell her of his ardent affection toward her, she wisht them to rob him with the sweate of a mule, to asswage his amorous passion, or to fetch him some of the water in Boetia, to coole & quench the heate of his affection: for quoth she, let him neuer hope to be helpt by mee. Well quoth they, before he saw thy glauing face, hee was a man reasonable and wise, but is now a stark foole, being by thy beautie bereft of wit, as if he had drunke of the riuer Cea, & like bewitching Circes thou hast certainly transformed him from a man to an Asse. There are stones in Ponctus quoth they, that the deeper they bee layd in the water, the fiercer they burne: vnto the which, fond Louers may fitly be compared, who the more they are denyed, the hotter is their desire: but seeing it is so, that he can finde no fauor at your hands, we will shew him what you haue said, and either draw him from his dumps, or leaue him to his owne will. Then spake one of the Weauers that dwelt in the Towne, and was a kinsman to this maid. I muse (quoth hee) that maister Bennedicke will not be perswaded, but like the Roach, will play with the flame that will scorch his wings. Wee thinke he should forbeare to loue, or learne to speake, or else woo such as can answer him in his language, for I tell you that Ione my kinswoman is no taste for an Italian. These speeches were told to Benedicke with no small addition. When our yong marchant heard the matter so plain, he vowd to be reuenged of the Weauer, and to see if he could finde any more friendship of his wife: therefore dissembling his sorrow, and couering his griefe, with speed he tooke his iourney to Newbery, and pleasantly saluted mistris Ione, and hauing his purse full of crownes, hee was very liberall to the workefolkes, especially to Iones kinsmen, in so much that hee got his fauour many times to goe forth with him, promising him very largely to doe great matters, and to lend him a hundreth pound, wishing him to be a seruant no

longer, beside beeliberally bestowedon his wife many gifts, and if she wroght him but a band, hee would giue her an angell: if hee did but send her child for a quart of Wine, hee would giue him a shilling for his paines. The which his curtesie changed the weauers mind: saying hee was a very honest Gentleman, and worthie to haue one far better then his kinswoman.

This pleased Master Bennedick well to heare them say so, notwithstanding hee made light of the matter, and many times when the weauer was at his masters at worke, the Marchant would bee at home with his wife, drinking and making merrie. At length time bringing acquaintance, and often conference breeding familiaritie, master Bennedicke began somewhat boldly to treat with Gillian, saying that her sight, and sweet countenance had quite reclaimed his loue from Ione, and that shee only was the mistris of his hart: and if shee would lend him her loue, hee would giue her gold from Arabia, orient pearls from India, and make her bracelets of precious diamonds. Thy garments shall bee of the finest silke that is made in Venice, and thy purse shall still be fult with angels. Well mee thy mind my loue, and kill me not with vnkindnes, as did thy scornefull kinswoman; whose disdain had almost cost mee my life. O master Bennedicke, thinke not the wiues of England can bee wonne by rewards, or inticed with faire words, as children are with Plums, it may bee that you being merily disposed, do speak this to try my constancie. Know then that I esteeme more the honour of my good name, than the sliding wealth of the world. Master Bennedicke hearing her say so, desired her, that considering it was loue which tyed his tongue to bewray his harts affection, that yet shee would be secret, and so for that time tooke his leaue. When hee was gone, the woman began to call her wits together, and to consider of her poore estate, and withall the better to note the comelines of her person, & the sweet fauour of her face: which when she had well thought vpon, shee began to harbour new thoughts, and to entertaine contrarie affections, saying: shall I content my

ſelfe to be wrapt in ſheepes ruſſet that may ſwim in ſilks, and ſit all day carding for a groat, that may haue crowns at my command? No quoth ſhee, I will no more beare ſo bale a mind, but take fortunes fauours while they are to bee had. The ſweet Roſe doth florish but one moneth, nor Womens beauties but in young yeers: as the winters froſt conſumes the Summer flowers, ſo doth old age banish pleaſant delight. O glorious gold quoth ſhee, how ſweete is thy ſmell? how pleaſing is thy ſight? Thou ſubduest Princes, and ouerthrowest kingdomes, then how ſhould a ſilly woman withſtand thy ſtrength? thus ſhee reſted meditating on preferment, minding to hazard her honeſtie to maintaine her ſelfe in bracerie, euen as occupiers corrupt their conſciences to gather riches. Within a day or two, maſter Bennedick came to her again, on whom ſhe caſt a ſmiling countenance: hee perceiuing that, (according to his old cuſtome) ſent for Wine, and very merrie they were. At laſt in the midſt of their cups hee caſt out his former queſtion; and after farther conference ſhe yeelded, and appointed a time when he ſhould come to her: for which fauour hee gaue her halfe a dozen portigues: within an houre or two after, entring into her owne conſcience, bethinking how ſinfully ſhee had ſould her ſelfe to folly, began thus to expoſtulate. Good Lord quoth ſhee, ſhall I breake that holy vow which I made in marriage, and pollute my bodie which the Lord hath ſanctified? Can I breake the commandement of my God, & not reſt accurſed? or bee a traytor to my husband, and ſuffer no ſhame? I heard once my brother read in a booke, that Bucephalus Alexanders ſteed, being a beaſt, would not bee backt by any but the Emperour, and ſhal I conſent to any but my husband? Artemiſia being a heathen Lady, loued her husband ſo well, that ſhee drunke vp his aſhes, and buried him in her owne bowels: and ſhould I being a Chriſtian, caſt my husband out of my heart? The Women of Rome were wont to Crowne their husbands heads with bayes, in token of victory, and ſhall I giue my husband horne in token of infamy? An harlot is hated of all vertuous people, and ſhall I

make my selfe a whore? O my God forgive me my sin, quoth shee, and cleanse my heart from these wicked imaginations: and as she was thus lamenting, her husband came home. At whose sight her teares were doubled, like a River whose streame is increased by showers of raine. Her husband seeing this, would needs know the cause of her sorrow: but a great while she would not show him, casting many a pitious looke upon him, and shaking her head, at last she said: O my deare husband, I have offended against God and thee, and made such a trespasse by my tongue, as hath cut a deepe scarre in my conscience, and wounded my heart with griefe like a sword: like Penelope so have I been wooed, but like Penelope I have not answered. Why woman quoth hee, what is the matter? If it be but the bare offence of the tong why shouldst thou so greeue? considering that womens tongues are like Lambes tayles, which seldome stand still: And the wise man saith, where much talke is, must needes bee some offence. Womens beauties are faire markes for wandring eyes to shoot at: but as every Archer hits not the white, so every wooer wins not his mistris favour. All Cities that are besieged, are not sackt, nor all women to be misliked that are loved. Why Wife? I am perswaded thy faith is more firme, and thy constancie greater to withstand Loners alarums, than that any other but my selfe should obtaine the fortresse of thy heart. O sweet husband (quoth shee) wee see the strongest Tower at length falleth downe by the Canons force, though the bullets be but Iron: then how can the weake Bulwarke of a womans breast make resistance, when the hot Canons of deepe perswading words are shot off with golden bullets, and every one as big as a Portigue? If it bee so wise, I may think my selfe, in a good case, and you to bee a very honest woman. As Mars and Venus were naked together in a net, so I doubt, you and some knave have playd naked together in a bed: but in faith you queane, I will send thee to salute thy friends without a nose, and as thou hast sold thy honestie, so will I sell thy company. Sweete husband, though I have promised, I have performed no-

thing

thing : euery bargaine is not effected, and therefore as Iudas brought againe the thirtie siluer plates, for the which he betrayed his Maister: so repenting my folly, Ile call him againe his gold, for which I should haue wronged my husband. Tell me quoth her husband what hee is? It is master Bennedicke quoth shee, which for my loue hath left the loue of our kinswoman, and hath vowed himselfe for euer to liue my seruant. O dissembling Italian, quoth he, I will be reuenged on him for this wrong. I know that any fauour from Ione my kinswoman, will make him runne like a man bitten with a mad dog: therefore be ruled by me, and thou shalt see me dresse him in his kinde: the woman was verie well pleased, saying he would be there that night. All this workes well with mee, quoth her husband, and to supper wil I inuite Ione my kinswoman, and in the meane space make vp the bed in the Parlour very decently. So the good man went forth, and got a sleepy drench from the Potecaries, the which hee gaue to a young Sow, which he had in his yard, and in that euening laid her downe in the bed in the Parlour, drawing the curtaines round about. Supper time being come, master Bennedick gaue his attendance, looking for no other company but the good wife: Notwithstanding at the last mistresse Ione came in with her kinsman, and sate downe to supper with them. Maister Bennedicke musing at their sudden approach, yet neuertheleſſe glad of mistresse Ione's company, past the supper time with many pleasant conceits, Ione shewing her selfe that night more pleasant in his company than at any time before: wherefore he gaue the good man great thankes. Good master Bennedicke, little do you thinke how I haue trauelled in your behalfe to my kinswoman, and much adoe I had to bring the peeuish Wench into any good liking of your loue: notwithstanding by my great diligence and perswasions, I did at length win her good will to come hither, little thinking to finde you here, or any such good cheare to entertaine her, all which I see is fallen out for your profit. But trust mee all the world cannot alter her minde, nor turne her loue from you: In regard whereof she

hath promised mee to lie this night in my house, for the great desire shee hath of your good companie: and in requitall of all your great curtesies shewed to mee, I am very well content to bring you to bed. Marrie this you must consider, and so she bad me tel you, that you shold come to bed with as little noise as you could, and tomble nothing that you find, for feare of her best gowne and her hat, which shee will lay hard by the bed side, next her best partlet, and in so doing you may have company with her all night, but say nothing in any case till you bee a bed: O quoth hee, Mater Ian, bee Got Mater Ian, mee will not spoyle her clothes for a towsand pound, ah mee loue Matres Ione more then my wife. Well, supper being done, they rose from the table. Master Bennedick imbracing mistresse Ione, thankt her for her great curtesie and company, and then the good man and hee walkt into the towne, and Ione hied hir home to her masters, knowing nothing of the intended iest. Master Bennedick thought euerie houre twaine till the sun was downe, and that hee were a bed with his beloued. At last hee had his wish, and home hee came to his friends house. Then said Iohn, master Bennedick you must not in any case haue a candle when you goe into the chamber, for then my kinswoman will bee angrie, and dark places fit best Louers desires. O M^r. Ian quoth hee, tis no such matter for light, mee shall find Metres Ione will enough in the darke. And entring in the parlour, groping about, hee felt a gowne and hat. O Metres Ione (quoth hee) here is your gowne and hat, me shall no hurt for a tousand pound. Then kneeling down by the beds side, in stead of mistris Ione, hee saluted the sow in this sort. O my loue and my delight, it is thy faire face that hath wounded my hart, thy gray sparkling eyes, and thy lilly white hands, with the comely proportion of thy pritty body, that made mee in seeking thee to forget my selfe, and to find thy fauor lose my owne freedome: but now is the time come wherein I shall reape the fruits of a plentifull harnest. Now mee deare, from thy sweet mouth let me sucke the hony balme of thy breath, and with my hand stroke those Rose cheekes of thine, wherein I haue tooke such pleasure.

Come

Come with thy prittie lips and entertaine me into thy bed with one gentle kisse (why speakest thou not my sweet hart) and stretch out thy Alabaster armes to imbolde thy faithfull friend. Why should ill pleasing sleepe close vp the crystall windowes of thy bodie so fast, and bereaue thee of thy fine Lordly attendants, wherewith thou was wont to salute thy friends? let it not offend thy gentle eares that I thus talk to thee. If thou hast vowed not to speak, I will not breake it, and if thou wilt command mee to bee silent, I will be dumbe: but then needest not feare to speake thy mind, seeing the cloudy night concealeth euery thing. By this time master Bennedick was vnready, and slipt into bed, where the sow lay swaded in a sheet, & her head bound in a great linnen cloth. As soon as hee was laid, he began to embrace his new bedfellow, and laying his lips somwhat neere her snout he felt her draw her breath very short. Why how now Ione (quoth hee) bee you sicke? Mistris Ione your breath bee very strong: haue you no cacke a bed? The sow feeling her selfe disturbed, began to grunt and keepe a great stirre: whereat master Bennedick (like a mad man) ran out of bed crying, de diuel, de deuill. The good man of the house (being purposely prouided) came rushing in with halfe a dosen of his neighbours, asking what was the matter. Poh mee (quoth Bennedick) here be the great diuel, crie hoh, hoh, hoh, bee Gosse I tink dee play the knaue wid mee, and mee wil bee reuenged on you. Sir quoth hee I knowing you loue mutton thought yorke nothing vnfit, and therfore prouided you a whole sow, and as you like this entertainment, spend Portegues. Walk, walk, Barkshire maids will bee no Italians trumpets, nor the wiues of Newbery their taudes. Barkshire dog (quoth Bennedick) owle face, shacke, harg deu and dy vvife, haue I not bee for mee loue to sweete Metresse Ione, I will no come in your houz: but farewell till I cash you, I shall make your hog nose bud: The good man and his neighbours laught aloud, away went master Bennedick, and for very shame departed from Newbery before day.

The pleaſant Hiſtorie

CHAP. VIII.

How *Iack* of *Newbery* keeping a very good houſe, both for his ſeruants and reliefe of the poore, won great credit therby, and how one of his wiues goſsips found fault therwith.

GOod morrow Goſſip, now by my truely I am glad to ſee you in health. I pray you how dooth Maiſter Winchcombe? What neuer a great belly yet? now fie, by my fa your husband is wart idle. Truſt mee Goſſip, ſaith miſtreſſe Winchcombe, a great belly comes ſooner then a new coate, but you muſt conſider wee haue not beene long married: but truly goſſip you are welcome, I pray you ſit down and we will haue a morſell of ſomething by and by: nay truely Goſſip I cannot ſtay quoth ſhe, indeede I muſt be gone: for I did but euen ſtep in to ſee how you did. You ſhall not chuſe but ſtay a while quoth miſtris Winchcombe, and with that a fayre Napken was layd vpon the little Table in the Parlour, hard by the fire ſide, whereon was ſet a fine cold Capon, with a a great deale of other good cheare, with Ale and Wine plentie: I pray you Goſſip eate, and I beſhrew you if you ſpare quoth the one, I thanke you heartily Goſſip ſaith the other. But heare you Goſſip, I pray you tell mee: doth your husband loue you well, and make much of you? yes truly I thanke God quoth ſhee: now by my truth ſayd the other, it were a ſhame for him if hee ſhould not: for though I ſay it before your face, though he had little with you, yet you were worthy to bee as good a mans wife as his. Truſt me I would not change my Iohn for my Lord Marquelle, quoth ſhe: a woman can be but well, for I liue at hearts eaſe, and haue all things at will, and truly hee will not ſee mee lacke any thing. Gods bleſſing on his heart quoth her Goſſip, it is a good hearing: but I pray you tell mee, I heard ſay your husband is choſen for our Burgeſſe in the Parliament houſe, is it true? Yes verily quoth his wife. I wis it is againſt his will; for it will be no ſmall charges vnto him: Tuſh woman, what talke of you that: thanke be to

God

God, there is never a Gentleman in all Barkshire that is better able to beare it. But beare you Gossip, shall I bee so bold to aske you one question more? Yes, with all my heart quoth shee. I heard say that your husband would now put you in your hood, and silke gowne, I pray you is it true? Yes in truth, quoth mistresse Winchcomb, but farre against my mind, Gossip: my french hood is bought already, and my silke gowne is a making, likewise the Goldsmith hath brought home my chayne and bracelets: but I assure you Gossip, if you will beleeue mee, I had rather go an hundred miles then weare them, for I shall bee so ashamed that I shall not looke vpon any of my neighbors for blushing. And why I pray you? quoth her Gossip. I tell you deare woman, you need not be any thing abashed or blush at the matter, especially seeing your husbands estate is able to maintaine it: now trust me truly, I am of opinion you will become it singular well. Alas quoth mistresse Winchcombe, hauing neuer beene vsed to such attyre, I shall not know where I am, nor how to behaue my selfe in it: and beside, my complexion is so blacke, that I shall carry but an ill fauoured countenance vnder a hood. Now without doubt (quoth her Gossip) you are to blame to say so: beshrew my heart if I speake it to flatter; you are a very faire and well fauored young woman as any is in Newbery. And neuer feare your behauiour in your hood: for I tel you true, as old and withered as I am my selfe, I could become a hood well enough, and behaue my selfe as well in such attyre as any other whatsoeuer, and I would not learne of neuer a one of them all: what woman, I haue beene a pretty wench in my dayes, and seene some fashions. Therefore you need not to feare, seeing both your beauty and comely personage deserues no lesse then a french hood, and bee of good comfort. At the first (possible) folkes will gaze something at you: but bee not you abashed for that, it is better they should wonder at your good fortune, then lament at your miserie: but when they haue seene you two or three times in that attyre they will afterward little respect it: for euery new thing at the first

seemes rare, but being once a little vsed, it groines common. Surely gossip you say true, (quoth shee) and I am but a foole to bee so bashfull: it is no shame to vse Gods gifts for our credites: and well might my husband thinke me vnworthy to haue them, if I would not weare them: and though I say it, my hoode is a fayre one, as any women weares in this countrey, and my gold chaine and bracelets are none of the worst sort, and I will shew them you, because you shall giue your opinion vpon them: and therewithall shee stept into her chamber and fetcht them foorth. When her Gossip saw them, shee sayd: Now beshrew my fingers but these are fayre ones indeede. And when doe you meane to weare them Gossip? At Whitsontide (quoth shee) if God spare mee life. I wish that well you may weare them, sayd her Gossip, and I would I were worthie to bee with you when you dresse your selfe, it should bee neuer the worse for you: I would order the matter so, that you should set euery thing about you in such sort as neuer a Gentlewoman of them all should staine you. Mistresse Winchcombe gaue her great thankes for her fauour, saying, that if she needed her helpe, she would be bold to send for her.

Then beganne her gossip to turne her tongue to another tune, and now to blame her for her great house keeping. And thus she beganne: Gossip, you are but a young woman, and one that hath had no great experience of the World, in my opinion you are something too lauish in expences: pardon me good gossip, I speake but for good will; and because I loue you, I am the more bolde to admonish you: I tell you plain, were I the Mistresse of such a house, hauing such large allowance as you haue, I would saue 20. pound a yeare that you spend to no purpose. Which may might that be (quoth mistres Winchcomber) indeed I confesse I am but a greene housewife, and one that hath but small tryall in the world, therefore I should bee verie glad to learne any thing that were for my husbands profite, and my commoditie. Then listen to mee quoth shee: You feede your folkes with the best of the beefe, and the finest of the wheate, which in my opi-

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nion is a great ouerſight: neither do I heare of any Knight in this countrey that doth it. And to ſay the truth, how were they able to beare that port which they doe, if they ſaued it not by ſome meanes? Come thither, and I warrant you that you ſhall ſee but browne bread on the boord: if it be wheate and rie mingled toge ther, it is a great matter, and the bread highly commended: but moſt commonly they eate either barly bread, or rie mingled with peaſe, and ſuch like courſe graine: which is doubtleſſe, but of ſmall price, and there is no other bread allowed, except at their owne boord. And in like manner for their meate: it is well knowne that neckes and poynts of beefe is their ordinarie fare: which becauſe it is commonly leane, they ſeeth therewith now and then a peece of bacon or porke, whereby they make their pottage fat, and therewith driues out the reſt with more content. And thus muſt you learne to doe. And beſide that, the mindſtes of the Oxen, and the cheekes, the ſheepes heads, and the gathers, which you giue away at your gate, might ſerue them well enough: which would be a great ſparing to your other meat, and by this meanes you would ſaue in the yeare much money, whereby you might the better maintaine your hood and ſilke gowne. Againe, you ſerue your folkes with ſuch ſuperfluities, that they ſpoyle in manner as much as they eate: beleeue me were I their Dame, they ſhould haue things more ſparingly, and then they would thinke it more daintie. Truſt mee goſſip (quoth Miſtreſſe Winchcombe) I know your words in many things to bee true: for my folkes are ſo curſed, that wee haue much adoe to pleaſe them in their dyet: one doth ſay this is too ſalt: and another ſaith this is too groſſe, this is too freſh, and that too fat, and twentie faults they will finde at their meales: I warrant you they make ſuch parings of their cheeſe, and keepe ſuch chipping of their bread, that their very ortes would ſerue two or three honeſt folkes to their dinner. And from hence I pray you proceedes that (quoth her Goſſip) but of too much plentie? but ſaith were they my ſeruants, I would make them glad of the worſt crumme

drye cast away, and thereupon I drinke to you, and I thanke you for my good cheere with all my heart. Much good may it doe you good gossip, sayd mistresse Winchcombe: and I pray you when you come this way let vs see you. That you shall verily quoth she, and so away she went.

After this, mistresse Winchcomb tooke occasion to giue her folks shorter commons, and courser meate then they were wont to haue: which at length being come to the good mans eare, hee was very much offended therewith, saying: I will not haue my people thus pincht of their victuals. Emptie platters make greedy stomackes, and where scarcitie is kept, hunger is nourished: and therefore wife as you loue mee let me haue no more of this doings. Husband (quoth she) I would they should haue enough: but it is a sinne to suffer, and a shame to see the spoyle they make: I could bee verie well content to giue them their bellyes full, and that which is sufficient, but it grieues me, to tell you true, to see how coy they are, and the small care they haue in wasting of things: and I assure you, the whole towne cryes shame of it, and it hath bred me no small discredit for looking no better to it. Trust me no more, if I was not checkt in my owne house, about this matter, when my eares did burne to heare what was spoken. Who was it that checkt thee, I pray thee tell mee? was it not your old gossip, dame dayntie, mistresse trip and go? I beleeue it was. Why man if it were she, you know shee hath beene an old housekeeper, and one that hath known the world; and that shee told mee was for good will. Wife (quoth hee) I would not haue thee to meddle with such light braind huswiues, and so I haue told thee a good many times, and yet I cannot get you to leaue her company. Leaue her company? why husband so long as she is an honest woman, why should I leaue her company? Shee neuer gaue mee hurtfull counsell in all her life, but hath alwayes been ready to tell me things for my profit, though you take it not so. Leaue her company? I am no gyrle I would you should well know, to bee taught what company I should keepe: I keepe none but honest company I warrant you. Leaue her

company

company ketha? Alas poore ſoule, this reward ſhe hath for her good will. I wis I wis, ſhe is more your friend, then you are your owne. Well let her be what ſhe will ſayd her husband: but if ſhee come any more in my house, ſhee were as good no. And therefore take this for a warning I would aduiſe you: and ſo away he went.

CHAP. IX.

How a Draper in *London*, who owed *Iacke* of *Newberry* much money became bankrout, whom *Iack* of *Newbery* found carrying a porters basket on his neck, and how he ſet him vp again at his owne coſt, which Draper afterward became an Alderman of *London*.

THere was one Randoll Pert a Draper, dwelling in Watling ſtreete, that owed Iacke of Newbery fiue hundred pounds at one time, who in the ende fell greatly to decay, in ſo much that hee was caſt in priſon, and his wife with her poore children turned out of doores. All his creditors except Winchcomb had a ſhare of his goods, neuer releaſing him out of priſon, ſo long as he had one penny to ſatisfie them. But when this tidings was brought to Iack of Newberies eare, his friends counſelled him to lay his action againſt him. Nay (quoth he) if he be not able to pay me when hee is at libertie, hee will neuer be able to pay me in priſon: and therfore it were as good for me to forbear my mony with out troubling him, as to adde more ſorrow to his grieued hart, and be neuer the nerrer. Miſery is troden downe by many, and once brought low they are ſeldome or neuer relieued: therfore he ſhall reſt for me vntoucht, and I would to God he were cleare of all other mens debts, ſo that I gaue him mine to begin the world again. Thus lay the poore Draper a long time in priſon, in which ſpace his Wife which before for dayntineſſe would not foule her fingers, nor turne her head aſide for feare of hurting the ſet of her neckenger, was glad to goe about and waſh buckes at the Thames ſide,

and to bee a chare-Woman in rich mens houses, her soft hand was now hardened with scowring, and in steade of gold rings upon her lillie fingers, they were now fild with chaps, prouoked by the sharpe lee and other drudgeries. At last, master Winchcombe being (as you heard) chosen against the Parliament a Burgesse for the towne of Newbery, and comming up to London for the same purpose, when hee was alighted at his Inne, hee left one of his men there, to get a Porter to bring his trunke up to the place of his lodging. Poore Randoll Pert, which lately before was come out of prison, having no other meanes of maintenance, became a Porter to carry burthens from one place to another, having an old ragged doublet, and a torne payre of breeches, with his hose out at the heeles, and a paire of olde broken slip shoes on his feet, a rope about his middle instead of a girdle, and on his head an old greasie cap, which had so many holes in it, that his haire started through it: who assoone as hee heard one call for a Porter, made answere straight: here Master, what is it that you would haue carryed? Mary (quoth hee) I would haue this Trunke borne to the spread Eagle at Iuiebridge. You shall master (quoth hee) but what will you giue me for my paines? I will giue thee two pence. A penny more and I will carry it, said the Porter: and so being agreed, away he went with his burthen till he came to the spread Eagle doore, where on a sudden espying Master Winchcombe standing, hee cast downe the Trunke and ran away as hard as euer hee could. Master Winchcombe wondring what hee meant thereby, caused his man to runne after him, and to fetch him againe: but when he saw one pursue him, he ranne then the faster, and in running, here he lost one of his slip shoes, and there another: euer looking behinde him, like a man pursued with a deadly weapon, fearing euery twinkling of an eye to bee thrust through. At last his breech, being tyed but with one point, what with the haste he made, and the weakenesse of the thong, fell about his heeles: which so shackled him, that downe hee fell in the streete all along, sweating and

blowing

blowing, being quite worne out of breath: and so by this meanes the Seruing man ouertooke him, and taking him by the sleeue, being as windlesse as the other, good blowing and puffing a great while ere they could speake one to another. Sirra, quoth the Seruingman, you must come to my maister, you haue broken his Trunke all to peeces, by letting it fall. O for Gods sake (quoth he) let me go, for Christs sake let me goe, or else Maister Winchcombe of Newbery will arrest me, and then I am vndone for euer. Now by this time Iack of Newbery had caused his Trunke to be carryed into the house, and then he walked along to know what the matter was: but when he heard the Porter say that he would arrest him, he wondred greatly and hauing quite forgot Perts fauour, being so greatly changed by imprisonment and pouertie, he said, Wherefore should I arrest thee? tell me good fellow: for mine owne part I know no reason for it. O Sir (quoth he) I would to God I knew none neither. Then asking him what his name was: the poore man falling downe on his knees, sayd: Good Maister Winchcombe beare with me and call me not into prison: my name is Pert, and I do not deny but I owe you fiue hundred pound: yet for the loue of God take pittie vpon mee. When Maister Winchcombe heard this, hee wondred greatly at the man, and did as much pittie his miserie, though as yet hee made it not knowne, saying: Passion of my heart man, thou wilt neuer pay mee thus: neuer thinke being a Porter to pay fiue hundred pound debt. But this hath your prodigalitie brought you to, your thriftlesse neglecting of your business, that set more by your pleasure than your profite. Then looking better vpon him, he said: What neuer a shoo to thy foot, hose to thy legge, band to thy necke, nor cap to thy head? O Pert this is strange; but wilt thou be an honest man, and giue me a bill of thy hand for my money? Yes sir, with all my heart, quoth Pert. Then come to the Scriueners (quoth he) and dispatch it, and I will not trouble thee. Now when they were come thither, with a great many following them at their

heeles

beeles, maſter Winchcomb ſaid: Heareſt thou Scrimener? this fellow muſt giue mee a bill of his hand for fiue hundred pounds, I pray thee make it as it ſhould bee. The Scrimener looking vpon the poore man, and ſeeing him in that caſe, ſaid to maſter Winchcombe: Sir, you were better to let it bee a Bond, and haue ſome ſureties bound with him. Why Scrimener (quoth hee) doeſt thou thinke this is not a ſufficient man of himſelfe for fiue hundred pound? Truly Sir (ſayd the Scrimener) if you thinke him ſo, you and I am of two minds. Ile tell thee what (quoth maſter Winchcombe) were it not that we are all mortall, I would take his word alloone as his Bill or Bond; the honeſtie of a man is all. And wee in London (quoth the Scrimener) doe truſt Bonds farre better then honeſtie. But Sir when muſt this money bee payd? Marry Scrimener when this man is Sheriffe of London. At that word the Scrimener and the people ſtanding by laughed heartily, ſaying: In truth Sir make no more adoe but forgiue it him: as good to doe the one as the other. Nay beleeue mee (quoth hee) not ſo: therefore do as I bid you. Whereupon the Scrimener made the Bill to be payd when Randoll Pert was Sheriffe of London, and thereunto ſet his owne hand for a witneſſe, and twentie perſons more that ſtoode by ſet to their handes likewiſe. Then hee asked Pert what hee ſhould haue for carrying his trunk. Sir (quoth hee) I ſhould haue three pence, but ſeeing I finde you ſo kinde, I will take but two pence at this time. Thanks good Pert quoth he, but for thy three pence, there is three ſhillings: and looke thou come to mee to morrow morning betimes. The poore man did ſo, at what time Maſter Winchcombe had prouided him out of Birchin lane, a faire ſute of apparell, Marchantlike, with a faire blacke cloake, and all other thinges fit to the ſame: then he tooke him a ſhop in Canweeke ſtreete, and furniſht the ſame ſhop with a thouſand pounds worth of cloath: by which meanes, and other fauours that maſter Winchcombe did him, hee grew againe into great credite, and in the end became ſo wealthy, that while maſ-

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ſter Winchcombe ſince hee was choſen Sheriffe, at what time he payed fiue hundred pounds euery pennie, and after aped an Alderman of the Citie.

CHAP. X.

How *Iack* of *Newberies* Seruants were reuenged of their Dames tattling Goſsip.

VPon a time it came to paſſe, when Maſter Winchcombe was farre from home, and his Wife gone abroad: That Miſtris many-better, dame tittle-tattle, goſſip pinte-pot, according to her old cuſtome came to Miſtris Winchombes houſe, perfectly knowing of the good mans abſence, and little thinking the good wife was from home: where knocking at the gate, Tweedle ſtept out and askt who was there? where haſtily opening the wicket, he ſodainly diſcouered the full proportion of this foule beaſt, who demanded if their Miſtris were within. What, miſtris Franke (quoth he) in faith welcome: how haue you done a great while? I pray you come in. Nay, I cannot ſtay quoth ſhee: Notwithſtanding, I did call to ſpeake a word or two with your Miſtris, I pray you tell her that I am heere. So I will (quoth he) ſo ſoone as ſhee comes in. Then ſaid the woman, what is ſhes abroad? Why then farewell good Tweedle: why what haſte, what haſte, miſtris Frank (quoth he) I pray you ſtay and drinke ere you goe, I hope a cup of new Sacke will doe your old belly no hurt: what (quoth ſhee) haue you new ſacke already? Now by my honeſtie I drunke none this yeare, and therefore I do not greatly care if I take a taſte before I go: and with that ſhee went into the wine cellar with Tweedle, where firſt hee ſet before her a piece of powdred beefe as greene as a leeke: And then going into the kitchen, he brought her a piece of roſted beefe hot from the ſpit. Now certaine of the Maidens of the houſe and ſome of the young men, who had long before

determined to bee revenged of this prattling housewife: came into the Cellar one after another, one of them bringing a great piece of a gambon of Bacon in his hand: and everie one bad mistresse Franke welcome: and first one drank to her, and then another, and so the third, the fourth, and the fift: so that Mistresse Franks braines wart as mellow as a pippin at Michaelmas, was so light, that sitting in the Cellar she thought the house ran round. They seeing her to fall into merry humours, whetted her on in merriment as much as they could, saying: mistresse Frank, spare not I pray you, but thinke your selfe as welcome as any woman in Newberie, for we have cause to love you, because you love our mistris so well. Now assure you quoth shee (lisping in her speech) her tongue waxing somwhat too big for her mouth, I love your mistresse well indeed, as if she were my owne daughter. Nay but heare you quoth they, she begins not to deale well with us now. No my Lamb quoth shee, why so? Because quoth they, she seekes to bar us of our allowance, telling our Master that hee spends too much in housekeeping. Nay then (quoth she) your mistresse is an Asse, and a foole: and though she goe in her hood, what care I? she is but a girle to mee: twittle twattle, I knowe what I know: Go to, drinke to mee. Wel Tweedle, I drinke to thee with all my hart: why thou whoreson when wilt thou be maried? O that I were a young wench for thy sake: but tis no matter though I be but a poore woman, I am a trew woman. Hang dogs, I have dwelt in this Towne these thirtie winters. Why man quoth they, you have dwelt here longer than our Master. Your Master, quoth shee? I knew your Master a boy, when he was called Iacke of Newbery; I Iacke, I knew him called plaine Iack: & poor Mistresse, now she is rich & I am poor, but tis no matter, I knew her a draggle taple girle, marke yee? But now quoth they, she takes upon her insolently, and hath forgot what shee was. Tush, what will you have of a greene thing quoth shee. Heere I drink to you, so long as she goes where she list a gossipping: & tis

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no matter, little ſaid is ſoone amended: but heare you my maiſters, though miſtreſſe Winchomb goe in her hood, I am as good as ſhee, I care not who tell it her: I ſpend not my husbands money in cherries and codlings, go to, go to, I know what I ſay well enough: I am ſure I am not drunk: miſtreſſe Winchcomb, miſtreſſe? No, Nan Winchcombe. I will call her name, plaine Nan: what, I was a woman, when ſhe was ſe-reuerence a paltrie girle, though now ſhe goes in her hood and chaine of gold: what care I for her? I am her elder, and I know more of her tricks: nay I warrant you I know what I ſay, tis no matter, laugh at me and ſpare not. I am not drunke I warrant: and with that being ſcant able to hold open her eyes, ſhee began to nodde and to ſpill the wine out of the glaſſe: which they perceiuing let her alone, going out of the cellar till ſhee was ſound aſleepe, and in the meane ſpace they deuiſed how to finiſh this peece of knauery. At laſt they conſented to laie her forth at the backſide of the houſe, halfe a mile off, euen at the foote of a ſtile, that whoſoeuer came next ouer might finde her: notwithſtanding, Tweedle ſtayed hard by to ſee the end of this action. At laſt comes a notable clowne from Greenham, taking his way to Newbery, who comming haſtily ouer the ſtile ſtumbled at the Woman, and fell downe cleane ouer her: but in the ſtarting vp, ſeeing it was a woman, cryed out, alas, alas. How now, what is the matter quoth Tweedle? O quoth he here lies a dead woman. A dead woman quoth Tweedle: thats not ſo I trow, and with that hee tumbled her about: bones of mee quoth Tweedle, its a drunken Woman, and one of the Towne vndoubtedly: ſurelie it is great pittie ſhee ſhould lie heere. Why? do you know her quoth the Clowne? no not I, quoth Tweedle: neuertheleſſe, I will giue thee halfe a groat and take her in thy Basket, and carry her throughout the Towne and ſee if any body know her. Then ſaid th'other, let me ſee the money and I will: For by the Maſſe ſhe earnd not halfe a groat this great while. There it is quoth Tweedle: then the

fellowes put her in his basket, and so lifted her upon his back. Now by the masse shee stinkes vilely of drinke or wine, or some thing: but tell mee, what shall I say, when I come into the towne, quoth hee? First quoth Tweedle, I would haue thee so soone as euer thou canst get to the townes end, with a lustie voice, to crie O yes; and then say, who knowes this woman, who? And though possible some will say, I know her, and I know her, yet do not thou set her downe till thou comest to the market Crosse, and there vse the like words: and if any bee so friendly, to tell thee where shee dwels, then iust before her doore crie so againe: and if thou performe this bravely, I will giue thee halfe a great maze. Maister Tweedle (quoth he) I know you well enough, you dwell with Maister Winchcomb, do you not? Well, if I do it not in the nick, giue mee neuer a penny. And so away hee went till hee came to the Townes end, and there hee crydes out as boldly as ante Bayliffes man, O yes, who knowes this woman, who? then said the drunken woman in the Basket, her head falling first on one side, and then on the other side, Who co mee, who? Then said hee againe, Who knowes this woman, who? Who co mee, who (quoth shee) and looke how oft hee spake the one, shee spake the other: saying still Who co mee, who co me, who? Whereat all the people in the streete fell into such a laughing, that the teares ran downe againe. At last one made answer, saying: goodfellow she dwels in the Mouth brooke Street, a little beyond master Winchcombes. The fellow hearing that, goes downe thither in all haste, and there in the hearing of a hundred people, cries: Who knowes this woman, who? whereat her husband comes out, saying: Marrie that doe I too well God helpe mee. Then sayd the Clowne, if you know her, take her; for I know her not but for a drunken beast: and as her husband tooke her out of the Basket, shee gaue him a sound boxe one the eare, saying: What you Queanes, do you mocke mee, and so was carried in. But the next day, when her braines

were

were quiet, & her head cleared of these foggie vapours shee was so ashamed of her selfe, that shee went not much of her doores a long time after: and if any body did say vnto her, Who co me who? Shee would bee so mad and furious, that shee would bee ready to draw her knife and to stick them, & scold as if she strout for the best game at the cucking stoole. Moreouer, her prattling to Mistresse Winchcombes folkes of their mistresse, made her on the other side to fall out with her, in such sort that shee troubled them no more, either with her company or her counsell.

CHAP. XI.

How one of *Iacks* of *Newberies* maydens became a Ladie.

AT the winning of Morlaix in France, the noble Earle of Surrey beeing at that time Lord high Admirall of England, made many Knights: among the rest was Sir George Rigley, brother to Sir Edward Rigley, and sundrie other, whose valours farre surpassed their wealth: so that when peace bred a scarcity in their purses that their credits grew weak in the Citie, they were inforced to ride into the country, where at their friends houses they might haue fauourable welcome, without enuie or grudging. Among the rest, Iacke of Newbery that kept a table for all commers, was neuer lightly without many such guests: where they were sure to haue both welcome and good cheere, and their mirth no lesse pleasing then their meat was plentie. Sir George hauing lien long at boord in this braue yeomans house, at length fell in liking of one of his maidens, who was as farre as she was long.

This lustie wench bee so allured with hope of marriage, that at length shee yeelded him her loue, and therwithall bent her whole studie to work his content: but in the end she so much contented him, that it wrought altogether her owne discontent: to become high, she laid her selfe so low, that the Knight suddenly fell ouer her, which fall became the rising of her belly: but when this wanton perceiued her selfe to bee with child, shee made her moane vnto the Knight, saying.

Ah sir George, now is the time to perform your promise, or to make me a spectacle of infamy to the whole world for euer: in the one, you shall discharge y duty of a true Knight; but in the other, shew your selfe a most periured person: small honour will it bee to boast in the spoyle of poore maidens, whose innocencie all good Knights ought to defend. Why thou lewd paltrie thing quoth hee: commest thou to father thy bastard vpon mee? Away ye dunghill carrion, away: heare you good huswife, get you among your companions, and lay your litter where you list, but if you trouble me any more, trust mee thou shalt dearely abie it: and so bending his browes like the angry god of warr, he went: his waies leauing the child breeding wench to the hazard of her fortune, either good or bad.

The poore maiden seeing her selfe for her kindnesse thus cast off, shed many teares of sorrow for her shame, inueighing with many bitter groanes, against the vnconstancie of loue-alluring men. And in the end, when shee saw no other remedie, shee made her case knowne vnto her mistresse: who after she had giuen her many checkes & taunts, threatning to turne her out of doores, shee opened the matter to her husband.

So soone as he heard thereof, he made no more to do, but presently posted to London after sir George, and found him at my Lord Admirals. What master Winchcombe (quoth hee) you are heartily welcome to London, and I thank you for

for my good cheere: I pray you how doth your good wife, & all our friends in Barkshire? All well and merrie, I thank you good Sir George, quoth hee: I left them in health, and hope they do so continue. And truste me sir (quoth he) having earnest occasiõ to come vp to talke with a bad debter, in my iourney it was my chance to light in company of a gallant widow: a Gentlewoman shee is of wondrous good wealth, whom grisly death hath bereft of a kinde husband, making her a Widow ere shee had been halfe a yeare a wife: her land, sir George, is as well worth a hundred pound a yeare as one penny, being as faire and comely a creature as any of her degree in our whole countrey: Now sir, this the worst, by the reason that she doubtes her selfe to bee with child, she hath vowed not to marrie this xii. moneths: but because I wish you well, and the Gentlewoman no hurt: I came of purpose from my business to tell you thereof: Now sir George, if you thinke her a fit wife for you, ride to her, woo her, winne her, and wed her. I thanke you good Maister Winchcombe (quoth he) for your favour ever toward me: and gladly would I see this young Widow if I will where. Shee dwels not halfe a mile from my house quoth Maister Winchcombe, and I can send for her at any time if you please.

Sir George hearing this, thought it was not best to come too soone, fearing Ioane would father a child vpon him, and therefore said; hee had no leasure to come from my Lord: But quoth hee, would I might see her in London, on the condition it cost me twenty nobles: Tush, sir George (quoth Maister Winchcombe) delay in love is dangerous, and hee that will woo a widow, must take time by the forelocke, and suffer none other to step before him, least hee leaps with out the Widowes love. Notwithstanding, seeing now I have tolde you of it, I will take my gelding and get me home, if I heare of her comming to London I will send you word, or perhaps come my selfe: till when adieu

good

good Sr George. Thus parted Master Winchcombe from the knight: & being come home, in short time hee got a faire Mallelie gowne, and a french hood for his maide, saying: Come ye drab, I must be faine to cover a foule fault with a faire garment, yet all will not hide your great belly: but if I finde meanes to make you a Lady, what wilt thou say then? O Master (quoth she) I shall be bound while I live to pray for you. Come then minion (quoth her mistris) and put you on this gowne & french hood: for seeing you haunt'en with a Knight, you must needes bee a gentlewoman; the maid did so, and being thus attired, shee was set on a faire gelding, and a couple of men sent with her vp to London: and being well instructed by her master and dame what shee should do, shee tooke her iourney to the Cittie in the Terme time, and lodged at the Bell in the Strand: and mistresse Loueless must be her name, for so her Master had warned her to call her selfe: neither did the men that waited on her, know the contrary, for Master Winchcombe had borrowed them of their Master, to wait vpon a friend of his to London who could not spare any of his owne seruants: at that time notwithstanding they were appointed, for the Gentlewomans credit, to say they were her owne men. This being done, Master Winchcombe sent Sr George a Letter, that the Gentlewoman which hee tould him of, was now in London, lying at the Bell in the Strand, hauing great business at the Terme.

With which newes Sir Georges heart was on fire, till such time as he might speake with her: three or foure times went hee thither, and still shee would not bee spoken withall: the which stole keeping of her selfe, made him the more earnest in his suite.

At length he watcht her so narrowly, that finding her going forth in an euening, hee followed her, shee hauing one man before, and another behinde: carrying a verie stately gate in the street, it drane him into the greater li-

king

king of her, beeing the more vrged to vtter his minde. And suddenly stepping before her, hee thus saluted her, Gentlewoman God saue you, I haue often beene at your lodging and could neuer finde you at leisure. Why sir quoth shee (counterfeting her naturall speech) haue you any businesse with me? Yes faire Widow quoth he, as you are a clyent to the law, so am I a sutor for your loue: and may I find you so fauorable to let me plead my owne case at the bar of your beautie, I doubt not but to vnfould so true a tale as I trust will cause you to giue sentence on my side. You are a merry Gentleman quoth shee: But for my own part I know you not; neuerthelesse, in a case of loue, I will bee no let to your sute, though perhaps I helpe you little therein. And therefore Sir, if it please you to giue attendance at my lodging, vpon my returne from the Temple, you shall knowe more of my mind, and so they parted. Sir George receiuing hereby som hope of good happe, stayed for his dear at her lodging doore: whom at her comming she frendly greeted, saying: Surely Sir, your diligence is more then the profit you shall get theredy: but I pray you how shall I call your name? George Regly (quoth hee) I am called, and for some small deserts I was knighted in France. Why then Sir George (quoth shee) I haue done you too much wrong to make you thus dance attendance on my worthlesse person. But let mee bee so bold to request you to tell mee, how you came to know mee: for my owne part I cannot remember that euer I saw you before. Mistris Louelesse (sayd Sir George) I am well acquainted with a good neighbour of yours, called Maister Winchcombe, who is my very good friend. and to say the truth you were commended vnto mee by him. Truly sir George sayd shee, you are so much the better welcome: Neuerthelesse, I haue made a vowe not to loue any man for this twelue moneths space. And therefore Sir, till then I would wish you to trouble your selfe no further in this matter till

that time be expired: and then if I finde you bee not intangled to any other, and that by triall I finde out the truth of your love, for Master Winchcombes sake your welcome shall bee as good as any other Gentlemans whatsoeuer.

Sir George hauing receiued this answere was wonderous woe, cursing the day that euer he meddled with loue whose time of deliuerance would come long before a twelue moneth were expired, to his bitter shame, and ouerthrowe of his good fortune: for by that meanes should hee haue maister Winchcombe his enemie, and therewithall the losse of this faire Gentlewoman. Wherefore to preuent this mischiefe he sent a Letter in all haste to maister Winchcombe, requesting him most earnestly to come vp to London, by whose perswasion hee hoped straight to finish the marriage. Maister Winchcomb fulfilled his request, and then presently was the marriage solemnized at the Tower of London, in presence of many gentlemen of Sir Georges friends. But when hee found it was Ione whome hee had gotten with child, hee fretted and fumed, stampt, and rag'd like a diuell. Why (quoth M. Winchcomb) what needs all this? Came you to my table to make my maid your strumpet? had you no mans house to dishonor but mine? Sir, I would you should well know, that I account the poorest wench in my house too good to be your whore, were you ten knights: and seeing you tooke pleasure in making her your wanton, take it no scorne to make her your wife: and vse her well too, or you shall heare of it. And hould thee Ione (quoth he) there is a hundred pounds for thee: And let him not say thou comst to him a begger. Sir George seeing this, and withall calling in his minde what friend Maister Winchcombe might bee to him, taking his wife by the hand gaue her a louing kisse, and Maister Winchcombe great thankes. Whereupon hee willed him for two yeres space to take his diet and his Ladies at his house: which the Knight accepting rode straight with

his

Sir wife to Newbery. Then did the Miſtris make curtſie to the Maid, ſaying: you are welcome Madam, giuing her the vpper hand in all places. And thus they liued afterwards in great ioy: and our King, hearing how Iacke had matcht Sir George, laughing heartily thereat, gaue him a liuing for euer, the better to maintain my Lady his Wife.

FINIS.